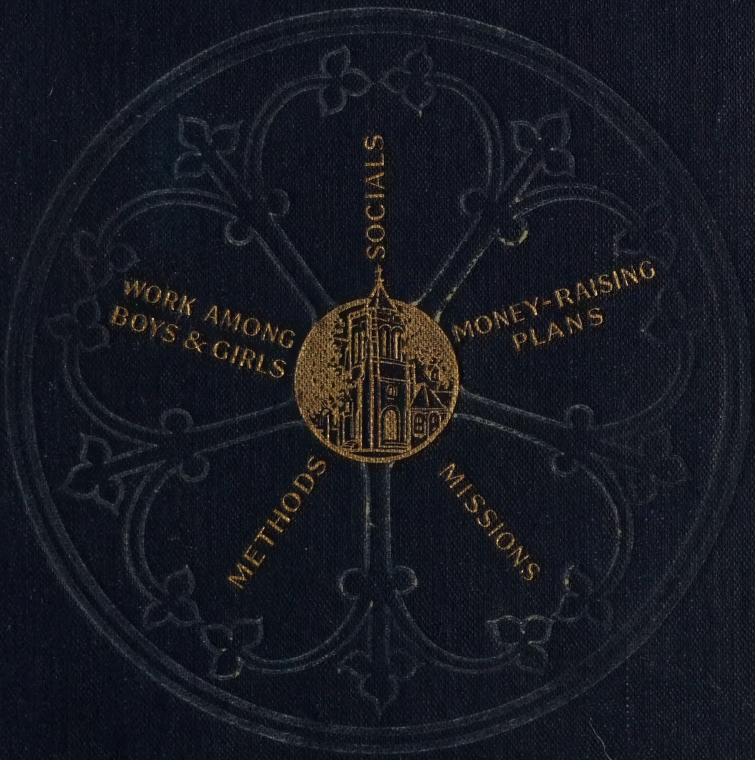
The Minister's Social Helper



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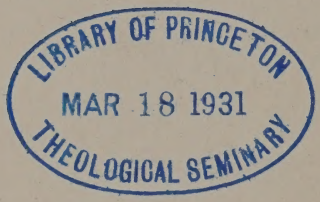

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THE MINISTER'S SOCIAL HELPER

BY

THERESA HUNT WOLCOTT

PHILADELPHIA
The Sunday School Times Company

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FOREWORD

THE object of this book is to offer helpful suggestions for keeping the social life of the young people affiliated with church societies under the protecting care of the Church, and to present new methods of church work along other lines that will make the work more effective. In its pages will be found ideas for wholesome entertainment, hints on making instruction interesting, and financial plans that include neither sale nor barter. Social life has a rightful and an important place in the Church if the people, young and old, feel an uplifting influence in that good fellowship which should attend their assemblies.

My thanks are due to the many ministers, ministers' wives, and other church workers among the readers of The Ladies' Home Journal —in the pages of which this material originally appeared—who, by written contribution and expressed interest, have helped to make the book possible.

T. H. W.

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THE CHURCH SOCIAL THROUGH THE YEAR

CHAPTER I

HOW TO MAKE A START TOWARD SOCIABILITY

WHEN problems confront us it is always helpful to know how other people have solved similar ones. For this reason let me tell you how a company of young people whom I have in mind planned their social life; and in saying "young" I mean every one in that church who had a youthful heart, but especially those who were from fifteen to thirty. Don't ask me where you can find them, but just imagine what a delight such a company and their good times would be to a young man just growing up in a small town where there is little in the way of entertainment and social intercourse, or to a young woman in a strange city who could find her social life in the church of her choice. And when young people are made to realize that they may have just as

good times in a church socially as they can anywhere else a long stride will have been taken toward their co-operation with that church. This is not to be done by a so-called "social," which is simply a thinly veiled sermon or study class, for after attending one such the average young person will feel that he has been tricked and decline a second invitation. Let your socials be socials pure and simple, offering innocent and wholesome amusement and congenial companionships; for happy indeed are the young people in any church who can unite to find in their own assemblies the healthful recreation and innocent amusements that brighten their lives and sharpen their wits!

"The Happy Times Society"

For convenience' sake we will call these young folks the "Happy Times Society," and it will not detract from the dignity or the influence of any pastor if he elects to be the president of such a society. He will get a better hold on his young people, and if he is the right kind of pastor his young people will get from him an inspiration that will last longer than the two social hours they occasionally spend with him.

No money-making was attempted by these young people, but some way was adopted each night to meet the small expense necessarily in-

curred, for simple refreshments limited to two or, at the most, three articles were usually served, since one can always be less formal over a teacup. And, by-the-way, they always arranged the chairs so they wouldn't be invitations to become wall-flowers.

Putting Young Folks to Work

The Society planned for two evenings a month, keeping in mind special days or events which they might celebrate, and if there were no special occasions in sight they found some reason for making ordinary days special. A different committee was appointed two weeks ahead for each meeting by the pastor and his associates, who mentally sized up the ability of the young people and planned to include every one at some time on the committee. When the appointments were made the committee would probably include Miss A., who taught Latin in the High School, and Miss J., who worked in the town factory. Miss A. supplied ideas, and Miss J. found her sphere and acquitted herself well in the deftness with which she helped to carry them out, incidentally getting inspiration from Miss A.'s personality. And what jolly times the committee had getting ready for their social evenings! It was almost as good as the social itself, for these young folks agreed that

"My own happiness
Is something to desire; and yet I know
That I must win it by forgetting it
In ministry to others";

and learned that one of the best ways to have a good time was to arrange for somebody else to have one.

Turning Failures to Success

AND here is the "true story" of how the problem of social life for young people in the church was solved in a small Episcopal congregation in a suburban town not thirty miles from New York, where there had been one or two unsuccessful attempts to start a series of social evenings. The rector had only one efficient helper until the coming to the church of a clever man and his wife from a near-by city. To them the rector told his story, and asked the co-operation of the two in a revival of what, for want of a better name, he called the "Young People's Association." The meeting was to be "of a literary nature," held at the house of the helper mentioned—a young Southern matron of much personal charm and wide hospitality.

Waiting for Something to Happen

The evening came and the assembled "young people" counted sixteen, including the rector

and his wife, the hostess and her family, and the young city couple. All sat around one room in rather a hushed manner, as though waiting for some blow to fall. The rector announced that quotations from Dickens would be called for. The young people gasped and giggled, and with one or two exceptions said they couldn't possibly think of anything; they never could before people. One young man read a few paragraphs, but that was all from the young folk. The rector then appealed to the city man for suggestions for the next meeting. Hawthorne and Cooper were suggested as being nearer in point of interest.

"Literary" Affairs Not Needed

After the Dickens episode chocolate and cake were served, there was singing and music, and the awe and stiffness of the "literary" part were dissipated. The next meeting was to be held in two weeks, and each one of the little company was asked to bring a friend. Two of the members were given the authors to look up, and quotations or selections were asked for from all. On the way home the city man and his wife decided that it was not "literary" things that were needed by these young people, but a good social time and something to eat. Most of the young men were clerks at none too large salaries; the girls were either in their last days at school or in business;

in nearly every case they were comparative strangers to each other. There was no social life, and this was what was needed.

The second meeting brought together fewer young people, and about a half dozen older ones invited by the hostess. One young lady conscientiously read a short paper (taken from an encyclopædia) on Hawthorne; the others gave excuses. The young city man in despair read a good short story and then called the rector, the hostess and his wife into consultation. It was announced that the next meeting would be entirely social, with a "Welsh rabbit" to follow. The city man's wife, in talking with some of the young men, had discovered a great taste for "rabbits." This meeting was to be at the rectory.

"Welsh Rabbit" as Bait

The "rabbit" proved a successful bait. There were twenty-three young people present, and to begin the evening there was a game of archery. A target was pinned on the curtains between the two rooms, and each person shot once. The turn went around three times and there was some trifling reward in recognition of the skill of the winner. Two chafing-dishes were used for the "rabbit," one presided over by the city man's wife and the other by the young Southern matron. The cooking was accompanied by "Ohs!" and

"Ahs!" of satisfaction and anticipation. Crackers were used in place of toast, and coffee was served. The evening was voted a great success and all were anxious to know what they were going to do next time. The rectory was again to be the meeting-place, and on the spur of the moment the city man's wife suggested a "pancake party." Before the "rabbit" party broke up, the city man said he was going to wash the dishes, and he found plenty of helpers. The rector's family had nothing to clean up afterward. Every dish was washed, dried, and put into place, and there was as much fun in doing this as in the games and supper. It was decided to have no dues, a few of the older members furnishing everything needed.

Pancake Party

The Sunday following the "rabbit" the city man's wife met two young men of the church and asked if they would not come to the next meeting. One of them said: "Well, you know, Mrs. B——, if you were going to have a lively time I'd love to come, but the boys tell me it's literary."

"Nonsense!" she exclaimed; "is a 'Welsh rabbit' literary?"

"No, indeed," he laughed.

"Well, do you think a 'pancake party' sounds literary?"

"What in the world do you mean?" he queried.

"Why, you've eaten pancakes, haven't you?"

"Certainly."

"Well, for our party you are to bake and eat them, too. Will you come?"

He certainly would. He was asked to bring a friend.

True to his promise, they were at the pancake party. The first part of the evening a noisy game was played and there was fun from the start. This meeting brought out thirty young people, more than half being young men. The hostess and the city man's wife prepared the pancake batter, and then, on the kitchen range and gas range, the baking was done. Two at a time these young people baked griddleful after griddleful, and what they baked vanished like the proverbial "hot cakes." With butter and maple syrup and hot coffee, healthy young appetites found no fault with the hearty supper.

Two Weeks too Long to Wait

When the city man's wife came into the dressing-room on the next meeting night one young girl said excitedly: "Oh, Mrs. B——, it's so long to wait two weeks between these meetings!" This was encouragement of the most positive kind. The game played that evening was "Book Titles." Lemon ice and cake followed the distribution of the prizes. Refreshments over, the city man's wife seated herself at the piano, and music and songs again filled out the evening. This meeting brought out forty-two.

A Memory Test

A game they played at the next assembly was, by general consent, called one of the best used during the winter. The contestants were seated in one big circle, lining two good-sized rooms; a large clothes-basket was brought in, filled to the brim with something. What it was soon developed. The lights were turned out, but before that the hostess announced that this would be a memory test, and score-cards were handed around. Darkness, and the game began. From hand to hand, around the big circle, were passed rapidly all the small belongings of a household, one after another—whisk-brooms, ironing-stands, match-boxes, tape-measures, nutmeg-graters, stove-lifters, blacking-brushes, hammers and what not.

There were one hundred and fifty different articles in all passed along. The sensation of naming a thing by its "feel" and remembering later is quite a feat. The men were at a decided disadvantage, for many of the household things were really unknown to them. The city man got the "booby" prize. For refreshments there was a genuine Southern treat: "Ambrosia" (sliced oranges with grated cocoanut and powdered sugar) was served with pound-cake, and coffee with whipped cream.

"Salmagundi Party"

A "salmagundi party" was the official title of the next social evening. Thirteen tables were provided, each seating four persons. In the dressing-rooms each guest was given a pink cheesecloth bag in which were ten clothespins. The evening's hostess explained that any one answering a question during the evening with "yes" or "no" would forfeit one clothespin, and she went on to say that the person holding the highest number of clothespins at the evening's end would receive honorable mention. These clothespins proved quite a feature of the evening's fun, for, in the excitement of the games, it was almost impossible to remember not to say "yes" or "no." The games played progressively, each one having its own table, were

jackstraws, pigs in clover, tiddledy-winks, and others of like character.

At each meeting now the attendance was growing perceptibly, and the interest was increasing; sixty was coming close to the average number present. And so they continued every other week until warm weather made indoor affairs impossible and closed the first successful season of the "Young People's Association."

What this parish did other communities can do. You can do it easily if you will. Don't be afraid of the old games. There is always a generation coming on to whom they are new.

CHAPTER II

ENTERTAINING IN FEBRUARY

IS it because there are so many delightful opportunities for good times in February, I wonder, that our young people's societies everywhere seem to put forth special efforts along social lines? Maybe it is because we feel the need of relaxation and gayety toward the end of a winter of strenuous work. At any rate, it is seasonable to plan for some pleasant evenings. There are really so many events to celebrate one hardly knows how to get them all in this, the shortest of months. Many prominent men were born in February. Besides the birthdays of Lincoln and Washington there are those of Lowell and Longfellow and Edison, all of whom have served their country well in one way or another. This being the case, the national colors might be put in place as decorations for the entire month. And there is good Saint Valentine!—we couldn't forget him.

Saint Valentine's Social

ON Saint Valentine's evening arrange to have at the door of the room where the sociable is to be given a wee maiden dressed in white, with

her gown decorated with tiny hearts of various colors, and as each unmarried person enters let her present a little heart-shaped pocket with a ribbon attached, so that it may be worn by the one receiving it. These pockets may be made by pasting two paper hearts together, leaving a little unglued space at the top; they should be of different colors. Slip into each pocket a nonsense couplet foretelling the fate of the recipient. The fate should be of a character to correspond with the color of the heart-pocket containing it: as white for marriage, rose for single blessedness, black for lost hope, and so on. The comparing of these rhymes will start conversation.

Heart Hunt

After this a heart hunt will break up small cliques and induce all to mingle socially—the real object of such an occasion. Hundreds of little hearts, measuring about one inch across, may be cut from a few sheets of red and of white paper. Hide these in every available place in the room—back of pictures, under cushions, rugs and chairs, and anywhere and everywhere—and in some place conceal one of the red sugar hearts like those the children of long ago used to enjoy. Allow a certain number of minutes for the hearts to be gathered. Explain that each red heart will count five, and each white heart one.

The one who captures the sugar heart will be the first one to marry. To the one who has the most points a pretty valentine may be presented, and humorous valentines, but not the kind that offend, to those who have the least.

Cupid's Archery Contest

Every one will enjoy taking part in Cupid's Archery Contest—a new version of an old game. Set up as a target a heart made of white cardboard, about three feet in height with concentric inner hearts outlined in red. Supply paper arrows with a pin in each to those who are to join in the game. A player wins by placing an arrow in the innermost heart while blindfolded. Or the heart may be divided into sections marked "matrimonial success," "despair," "five times wedded," and so on, the section upon which the arrow is fixed determining the future destiny of the player.

Writing Verses

Fifteen minutes given to the writing of love verses will be enjoyed by the sentimental and the quick-witted. Reward the best poet with a bookmark made by cutting a double, heart-shaped piece from a rice-paper envelope. The corner of the envelope will serve as the point of the heart, and cut in this way it will exactly fit over the corner of a page. "A book that is thy heart's best friend,"

in blue and gold lettering, would be an appropriate quotation to have inscribed upon the bookmark.

Securing Partners

To secure partners for refreshments suspend two large paper hearts from the ceiling, several feet apart. Through a hole in each hang the ends of long strings stretched between. The young men take hold of the strings on one side, the young women on the other. All pull at a given signal and the hearts are riven. Partners find themselves each holding the end of a string.

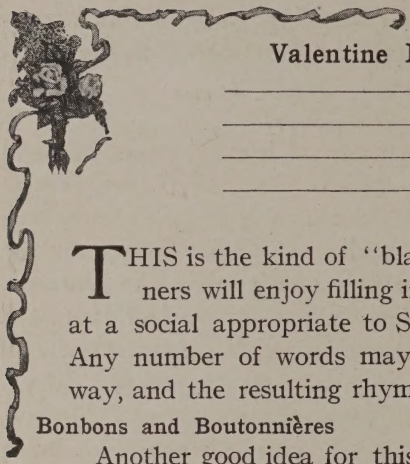
In decorating the room, strings of evergreen, from which small red and white hearts are hung about a foot apart, will give a pretty effect.

Refreshments may consist of heart-shaped sandwiches, heart-shaped cakes, and coffee.

Making Paper Aprons and Napkins

Pretty aprons for the girls who serve may be made of white crepe paper, rounded, and finished with a ruffle, with a border of red hearts where the ruffle is added.

This idea may also be used in preparing the napkins. Cut ten-inch squares from sheets of white crepe paper, and around each square, about one inch from the edge, place a row of the tiniest hearts that can be obtained. Stretch the edge beyond the border to make a slight frill.



Valentine Rhymes

_____heart
_____love
_____dart
_____dove

THIS is the kind of "blank" verse that partners will enjoy filling in as one of the games at a social appropriate to Saint Valentine's Day. Any number of words may be put down in this way, and the resulting rhymes will be amusing.

Bonbons and Boutonnières

Another good idea for this evening is "A Bonbon and Boutonnière Social," and it is arranged in this way:

Miss A provides herself with a list of fifty names of obtainable varieties of candy and nut meats, and circulates the paper among the young men who are expected to attend. Each man chooses the kind of candy or nut meat which, hidden in a fancy box or paper bag, he will bring to the social. The amount of his purchase is limited to ten cents' worth of the kind chosen. Mr. B provides himself with a list of names of fifty varieties of flowers that may be purchased or may be made of paper, and he circulates his list among the young women. Each one is solicited to choose a flower

not selected by another, and to bring to the social a boutonnière attractively wrapped, as if sent from a florist's.

A March Is a Good Mingler

Previous to the social Miss A and Mr. B provide themselves with slips of paper, each one bearing the name of a variety of the bonbons or flowers which have been chosen by the young men and the young women. A bonbon slip is pinned upon each young woman, and a flower slip upon each young man upon their arrival at the social. At a given signal the Bonbon March begins. Each of the young men, with his package of bonbons, claims any one of the young ladies for his partner. All march in a circle about the room. Suddenly the music stops. The announcement is made that the men on the outside of the circle remain standing while the ladies move up one to the next partner. When the young man finds he is marching with the young woman who has the slip answering to the bonbon he holds they retire from the circle to converse and enjoy the bonbons. The marching continues until all have matched their bonbon slips.

After a brief program of entertainment features all are ready for the Boutonnière March, which is managed the same as the Bonbon March. This time the young women escort the young men.

As each lady joins the gentleman bearing the name of her flower she presents him with her boutonnière and escorts him to the refreshment-room.

Other Suggestions for Saint Valentine Affairs

INSTEAD of attempting to outline definitely any number of socials I am going to make some suggestions for games, etc., from which you can select and arrange as best may fit your need. The fun must, by nature of the day, be gay, but let us be careful that the refining element runs through the light pastimes, and that the evenings, taken all in all, are uplifting; else they fail of their purpose.

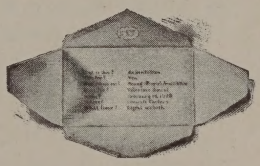
We are all so practical nowadays that we even talk of giving and receiving "useful" valentines, but in doing this we are only going back to the custom of ancient Rome, when the gift of some article of finery acquainted the sweetheart of the chance drawing of her name. Let us think, then, first of our neighbor—anybody we can help with a useful gift. It would be a pretty idea to have a valentine festival early in the month, and send the "Valentine Offering" to some person whom you know is in need.

At one such festival the platform was transformed into a huge valentine by a framework

around it, covered with crepe paper and edged with lace shelf-paper, the whole resembling the old-fashioned lace-paper valentine. The orchestra—in this case young women in white gowns—formed the central figure. The effect was exceedingly pretty, especially when colored lights were thrown upon the platform. After an entertaining program a simple drill was given; picturesque effects being obtained by carrying wire hearts, about two feet in height, covered with red roses.

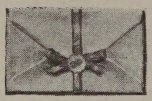
A Novel Invitation

The novel invitation which you see illustrated is made from a piece of white paper cut after the pattern of any ordinary envelope, a bit of red ribbon and a heart-decorated seal. You may not be able to read what is typewritten on it. It says:



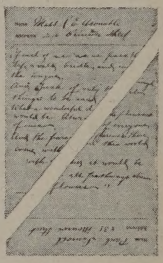
What is this?	An invitation.
Whom for?	You.
Who wants me?	Young People's Association.
What for?	Valentine Social.
When?	February 14, 19—.
Where?	Church parlors.
What time?	Eight o'clock.

If one has the use of a typewriter one hundred invitations may be prepared in this way very inexpensively by purchasing envelopes at the hundred rate, and carefully opening them so they may be inserted in the machine. To close the invitation attach a bow of red ribbon to the tip of the flap with the seal, and a bit of mucilage on the under side will hold the flap down.



An "Acquaintance Maker"

To get people acquainted here is a little plan illustrated. You will think it the old, old game of matching quotations. So it is, but with the addition of a written introduction to every one with whom you try to match papers. As the slips are fitted together, the name of the person holding the other half is presented to you, while your name is in plain sight of your partner. The words "name" and "address" should be printed very distinctly, and plenty of space allowed for the writing of names on this "Acquaintance Maker." Any quotation appropriate to the occasion may be used.



Guessing "Autobiographies"

For a game we will take a few liberties with the long-ago custom of drawing the names of the fair

ones from a box, and in place of the names will deposit descriptions of the company present, each one written by the person described. The descriptions of young men are dropped into a box from which the young women draw, and vice versa. These "autobiographies" are then read aloud and guessed by acclamation by the listeners. Here are two to make my meaning clearer:

As I See Myself

I have blue eyes, curly brown hair, a small mustache, and a Roman nose. I am five feet seven inches in height; weigh about one hundred and twenty-five pounds; and my common expression is "My land!" Do you know me?

As I See Myself

Although I weigh one hundred and forty-five pounds, I am slender. My face is oval, with hazel eyes, and thick, black hair, combed in a soft puff around the face; my neck is short. I often remark, "No! Really?" Do you know me?

Domestic Band

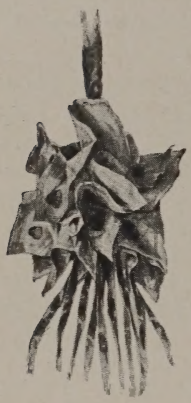
In the way of more formal entertainment you might arrange a Saint Valentine Orchestra—a new name for the domestic band that plays on zobos the tunes of the sweethearts known in songs, to the accompaniment of a coffee-mill, the accordionlike action of a collapsible hatrack, and so on.

All the young women in the band should wear black skirts and white shirtwaists, with red cheese-

cloth sashes, decorated with white paper hearts, over their shoulders.

Napkin Ball

To break the quiet that so often falls when refreshments are about to be served it is a good idea to arrange a napkin ball from which each person pulls a napkin which has a "fortune" concealed in it. To make one of the napkin balls shown in the illustration, lay open a heart-decorated paper napkin, place in the centre a "fortune" slip and about six or eight inches of white thread; then gather the napkin up around the slip of paper and the thread, leaving six more inches of thread hanging out. Tie the napkin from the under side, about a third from the centre, with red ribbon, leaving a long end hanging. When the napkins are all arranged the threads are gathered together and tied closely to form a ball. As the threads are not fastened, but only laid in the napkin, a pull from the ribbon will detach the napkin with the fortune inclosed.



Take care that the fortunes are so worded that they will not be in any way embarrassing. "Good

health, love of art and music, travel widely" may be improbable, but will give just as much fun as a more personal one, and will not offend.

Secret Behests

Here is just one more idea for the valentine social, and heartily I advise its use. On the outside of tiny white envelopes about four inches long, write:

Saint Valentine's Behest
Keep it secret and work it out.

The sealed "behests" are handed at random to each one entering. They read:

See that no person near you is left alone without a word of welcome.
See that no elderly person lacks a chair.
See that each speaker is afterward thanked.
See that the musicians are thanked.
See that the speakers are well served with refreshments.
See that strangers are well served.
See that the room becomes neither too hot nor too cold. If it does, speak to the sexton.
Make strangers known to the pastor.
Talk to the people who seem timid or lonely.

CHAPTER III

PLANNING THE PATRIOTIC EVENINGS

THE evenings of Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays are favorite times for entertaining by the church young people, and a good deal of instruction may be derived from guessing games appropriate to the evening.

Playing the "War Game"

For the first game let the guests be told that the answers to the questions to be given all pertain to "War," the place where patriotism most often is shown. Each guest is provided with a copy of the following questions:

1. A part of the body and a vowel.
2. Light knocks.
3. A month.
4. An English river and parts of the human body.
5. A boy's head covering and two thousand pounds.
6. A plaything and to help.
7. The inside of a nut.
8. A small boy and a lovers' strolling-place.
9. A baby and a grain.
10. A short sleep and what flour comes in.

The answers are: 1, Army; 2, Taps; 3, March; 4, Defeat; 5, Captain; 6, Blockade; 7, Colonel; 8, Chaplain; 9, Infantry; 10, Knapsack.

Naming Unmarked Portraits

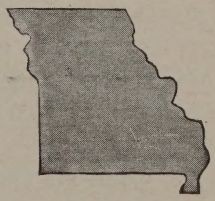
Other games for a patriotic social are the identification of the nameless portraits of the Presidents—these pictures may be obtained very inexpensively, two for one cent; and the answering of the following questions, the initials giving the name of a great American city:

1. A river in Russia which is usually frozen from November to April.
2. The name of a famous school in England.
3. A famous abbey in London.
4. A famous park in the Western States.
5. A group of Scottish islands, many of which are uninhabited.
6. A beautiful German river, the banks of which are covered with vineyards and castles.
7. The town in the Soudan where General Gordon lost his life.

Answers: 1, N-eva; 2, E-ton, 3, W-estminster; 4, Y-ellowstone; 5, O-rkneys; 6, R-hine; 7, K-hartoum.

Geography Game

A geography game is especially well suited to boys and girls in school, but it furnishes fun and instruction for all. If you want to use this idea State outlines may be prepared very easily by sketching the shapes of the States on



colored cardboard. Hang these about the room. The object is to guess the State from its outline. Can you tell which State is outlined in the illustration? No? It is Missouri.

Game of Nations

For another game have a number of small silk flags of the different nations, and give them to the guests as they come in. Distribute paper and pencils and ask the guests to write out the form of government, whether a republic or a monarchy, and the names of the rulers of the countries represented by the different national flags.

Burlesque Historical Tableaux

The following description of an impromptu game which afforded great amusement at a large family gathering may be adapted to the entertainment of a number of people at a church social.

Two adjoining rooms, with folding doors or portières between, make the best arrangement for this game. Sides are chosen, and while one group of participants retires behind the doors or curtains the other takes seats in front.

On the occasion mentioned the retiring party chose for its first representation an historic event which was easy to guess. When the doors were thrown open there was a burst of laughter and shouts of "Sir Walter Raleigh spreading his cloak for Queen Elizabeth," which was the scene

portrayed. Queen Elizabeth was adorned with a crown cut from a newspaper and pinned together. Another newspaper had been plaited and then cut into proper form and pinned about her neck for a ruff, while a deep red velours portière fastened to her shoulders made a magnificent mantle and train which was held up by two children as pages. Sir Walter, wearing a handsome black velvet hat (his sister's best), was spreading a golf cape at the feet of the Queen, while the remainder of the company filled up the scene as ladies and gentlemen of the court—more capes and ruffs doing service for their make-ups. This tableau being easily guessed, it was now the turn of the other side to pose, and the opening of the doors revealed unmistakably Joan of Arc at the stake. Joan's hair was flowing loosely about her shoulders, and her white gown (a sheet) was gracefully confined at the waist by the same rope which bound the broom to her back, which, with the handle showing above her head, did duty as a stake. Fagots from the kitchen woodbox were piled at her feet, while grouped around her were the priest and weeping citizens.

Among other tableau possibilities are "Washington Crossing the Delaware," "Pocahontas and Captain John Smith," "Marie Antoinette Going to Her Execution," "Washington Bidding Fare-

well to His Generals," and "Betsy Ross Making the Flag." It will readily be seen that with a little ingenuity an almost unlimited number of events as well as titles of books may be shown and much merriment caused by the originality and cleverness of the makeshifts.

Our Nation's Story

OUR Nation's Story in Song and Verse is the history of some of our national songs and the recitation of poems of patriotism, beginning with Revolutionary times and taking up in order those that have had their birth in "the times that tried men's souls." An entertainment given under this name touched a patriotic chord in the hearts of those present and was received with hearty enthusiasm. The story was arranged by two young women. No program is here outlined, as an attempt to give all the songs and poems about our country would be out of the question, but a delightful social evening may be enjoyed listening to such a story as that suggested.

The reading of the story was preceded by a chorus of little children singing "America" and saluting the flag. The story was divided into two parts—the first ending at the beginning of the Civil War, and the second carrying on our history to the present time. The reading of the story

was interspersed with the recitation of various poems and the singing of songs relating to historic events. Between parts one and two a chorus of twelve young men sang a medley of national airs.

At the conclusion of this part of the program a young man in a soldier's uniform sprang to the platform, waving aloft a large flag. He was followed by a chorus of young men who "rallied 'round the flag" as they sang the old song with hearty good-will.

Some Historical Games

THE committee in charge of a Washington's Birthday Social may like to know of several forms of entertainment good for such an occasion, because everybody may take part in them and at the same time acquire some knowledge. To get the people interested start a flag game, giving to half of the company flags of foreign nations, and the names of the countries to the other half. When all are matched tell them they have done so well they may try building our own flag.

Making the Flag

Give out flag-decorated envelopes, in each of which is a question the answer to which is one of the States of the Union, not including the thirteen original States. For instance:

"I was separated from my other half and became a State in 1889. I have been known as 'The Land of the Black Hill Mines.' What is my name?" Answer: South Dakota.

In answer to the Kentucky question, the song "My Old Kentucky Home" may be given. Near by hang an American flag with all the stars but thirteen covered with small blue squares. After each question a square of the blue is removed until all the stars are revealed. Then the whole company sings "The Stars and Stripes Forever."

Washington Quotations

Every one will wonder what is going to happen to the cherry-tree in the centre of the room—a tree with bare branches trimmed with paper leaves and cherries stuffed with cotton. In each cherry is found a hatchet-shaped paper on which is copied a sentence from parts of Washington's Farewell Address. The slips are numbered consecutively. Number one begins the speech, and every one keeps count and supplies his sentence at the right time.

Guessing Historic Pictures

For an interesting guessing game, fifty miniature prints of historic scenes may be obtained for twenty-five cents. Cut off the descriptive lines from each one and pin the pictures up in plain sight around the walls of the room, letting

the company write down what each picture represents.

Banquet of States

IN some of the Western States many of the people are not natives of those States in which they live, and in one church it was found that the membership included representatives of twenty States. A "Banquet of States" was arranged. A table was planned for groups of States, with typical food, decorations, and souvenirs. Judicious advertising, personal invitations, and the desire "to see who is here from home," brought out the people on this particular occasion. If a different menu could not be managed for each section, a good plan would be to give a Patriotic Supper on the twenty-second of February. Stand a miniature tree with green paper leaves and cherries of cranberries in the centre of each table; the "cherries" should be hung on two-inch wires bent over the twigs. A hatchet at the base of the tree would give the final touch.

A PATRIOTIC SUPPER

"I know not what course others may take."
—*Patrick Henry*, 1775.

"I propose to move immediately upon your works."
—*U. S. Grant*, Fort Donelson, 1862.

Menu

Pork and beans.

"Our Union: It must and shall be preserved."
—*Andrew Jackson*, 1830.

Pressed chicken.

"I cannot tell a lie, Father;
I did it with my little hatchet."
—*George Washington*, 1742.

Boiled ham.

"It is altogether meet."
—*Abraham Lincoln*,
Gettysburg Address, 1863.

Potato salad.

"Well, gentlemen, I think there's something in it."
—*Abraham Lincoln*,
Ericsson Interview, 1861.

Pickled beets.

"Let us go to the root of this thing."
—*George William Curtis*,
On the Spoils System, 1886.

Boston brown bread.

"It is a condition, not a theory, that confronts us."
—*Grover Cleveland*, 1887.

Celery.

"Heavily entrenched."
—*General William T. Sherman*,
Report Atlanta Campaign, 1864.

Hot rolls.

"The rolls of officers and men to be in duplicate."
—*U. S. Grant,*
At Appomattox, 1865.

Jellies.

"I shake, gentlemen, but not from fear."
—*Stephen Hopkins,*
On Signing the Declaration, 1776.

Sherbet.

"Well, I call this cool."
—*Governor Theodore Roosevelt,*
On the Stump, 1900.

Assorted cake.

"The great difficulty is in division."
—*John J. Crittenden,*
United States Senate, 1860.

Coffee.

"What grounds for this?"
—*Honorable William J. Bryan,*
On the Stump, 1900.

A State Game

IN arranging another form of Washington's Birthday Social the program for the evening might be entirely patriotic and open with a salute to the flag, and the singing of "The Star-spangled Banner." This recognition of the flag is always thrilling. While the people are still

standing, the following oath of allegiance might be repeated:

"I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the Republic for which it stands: one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Each guest on arriving should be presented with a white card on which has been pasted a picture of General Washington. These need not all be alike—in fact, it will increase the interest in the cards if they are not; any picture of our first President may be used. Small ones cut from magazines will answer the purpose admirably. Beneath the picture have the date, and through perforations at the top of the cards run red, white, and blue ribbon hangers. On the reverse of each of the first thirteen cards given out write the name of one of the thirteen original States; on the next thirteen the capital of each of these States, and on the next thirteen one of the principal cities in the States. If the company is to be a large one the forty-six States of the Union may be used instead of the original thirteen.

The company then forms into State groups—those holding cards bearing the name of the State itself, its capital and principal city—and each group agrees which product of its State is most beneficial to the greatest number of people.

When a report is called for a vote is taken from all present as to which product is most essential to the welfare of the nation as a whole. Three small bouquets of red and white carnations tied with blue ribbon will make appropriate rewards for the three supporters of the State which wins distinction.

The room should be decorated in the national colors or, if desired, in honor of Washington; in which case it may be draped in the blue and buff of the Continentals.

A pretty idea in refreshments would be to serve on blue plates white ice cream in the shape of small forts, with candied cherries indented in the sides marking the embrasures, and tiny flags waving from the top of each fort.

Another "State Social" Idea

FOR another form of the State social obtain a large wall-map of your State and place it handy to be hung up on short notice. After the guests are assembled divide them into groups of from five to fifteen each, giving each group the name of a county. These groups elect a "Governor," who shall control the coming contest. Give each person a sheet of paper and have him draw from memory a map of his county and place on it five towns in his county. It will be found

that almost every one has forgotten the lay of it or has never paid attention to it.

The "Governor" will pin the maps up in a conspicuous place, so that all may be examined and compared with the map showing everything correctly. Great fun, with lots of laughter, will be found in this game. Suitable prizes could be awarded for the best results shown, and the whole affair could be well closed by a "banquet" given by the "Governor" to his people.

Patriotic readings, recitations, and choruses should be intermingled with the fun, and the best finale is our national anthem. To plan for the sudden appearance of the flag the upper edge should be fastened to a rope stretched between hooks in the ceiling. The bottom of the flag, at a point near the centre, should be then drawn up and firmly tied.

Then gather up the remainder of the flag, but, instead of tying it, use bands of paper one inch wide at intervals of two feet, to furl the flag, which then appears as a long roll. A fish-line may then be run through all the loops of paper, and returned outside the paper bands. The ends of the line are brought through a screw-eye near one end of the flag and thence to a side room. A piece of cloth a few inches wide is hung in front of the flag to conceal it in its furled position.

The ends of the fish-line are pulled, and as the loops of paper are torn by it the flag falls.

Army Campfire

THE Young People's Society of a large church gathered the Christmas trees in their vicinity and after transporting them to their church made them do double duty. The trees were arranged in the social room to form the setting of an army campfire, which was the novel entertainment given by this society. A number of tents were pitched on each side of the room, each floating the red, white, and blue. A stack of unloaded muskets, and campfires simulated by red glass lanterns and logs and fagots, would be attractive features.

Each tent is furnished with some form of amusement, entertainment, or instruction. A sentinel turns the guests over to the care of a guide, who takes them to the first tent, where they register and afterward tour the tents. The second tent may exhibit historical pictures, and so on. The last tent is the commissary department, and should not be opened for inspection until late in the evening.

With such a setting as this for a Washington's Birthday social even a simple program would be enjoyed.

Guessing Dates

A good game for such an evening is a distribution of cards containing dates of historic happenings; the events are to be guessed. A few dates are well known, but the majority of them will not be so easily recalled by most of those present.

Games of the class mentioned in this chapter will appeal to boys of school age whom it is sometimes difficult to interest in these social affairs.

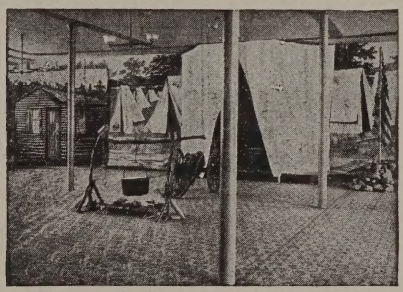
Pleasing Souvenirs

Pleasing little reminders of the social in the form of hatchets with wooden handles and pins for attaching them to the coat or dress may be purchased at about sixty cents a gross from wholesale toy dealers. It is well to attach a card to these souvenirs inviting the guests to the services of the society giving the social.

Military Social

FOR another military social a large room was divested of its furniture and rearranged with small tents: three on one side and three on the other. The end opposite that entered by the guests was furnished with an officer's tent, some decorative paintings of tents, and a log cabin. A kettle was hung on a cross-bar supported by posts near the centre of the room, with wood and candles underneath for a campfire.

A brotherhood in the church had sent word to friends that seats around the campfire would be reserved for them, and invited them to share their mess. A card was inclosed to be presented to the guard on entering. The members appeared in uniforms, with guns and swords. A fife and drum corps furnished the music, and a sentry paced his beat. As the drums and bugles sounded the army signals, the "soldiers," after various evolutions, dropped around the campfire.



Speeches, war stories, and accounts of prison life were in order, and patriotic songs were sung. This was followed by mess, consisting of corn-bread, hardtack, baked beans, and coffee. The social ended with a mock court martial of one of the soldiers for some trivial and ludicrous offense against the commissary department.

Colonial Exhibit

"You may not enter at the door
Unless you bring from days of yore
A pewter mug, a silhouette,
A bit of lace, or beads of jet,
Or brooch your great-grandmother wore.

"An ancient sword will do as well,
Or spinning-wheel, or dinner-bell;
But ere the evening hour has flown,
The while your treasure's proudly shown,
Its legend you must truly tell."

THE condition in this invitation tells its own story, but as it swept away forebodings of a guessing game, hidden peanuts, or a progressive supper, and aroused a flutter of gossip, attic-hunting, etc., it was very successful. I give it here because so many want affairs with a Colonial flavor in February. The younger members of a family may in this way hear a bit of history for the first time. In one case there were discovered so many interesting relics of Colonial days which could not be carried that a Colonial Room was fitted up as an exhibit. This plan is possible in almost every neighborhood, and is worth trying once in each community.

Novel Keepsakes

Here is a suggestion for February prizes. What could be more appropriate for a prize on Washington's Birthday than one of the hatchets sold at the old home of Washington, at Mount Vernon, Virginia, where his body now rests. You can obtain for thirty-five cents one made from wood (sometimes cherry) grown on General Washington's grounds. Wouldn't some schoolboy guess hard to get that?

CHAPTER IV

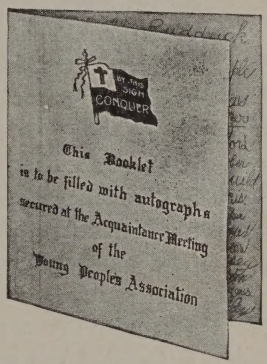
THE SPRINGTIME SOCIAL

LET us take time by the forelock and put into our socials after the sun has "crossed the line" some of the brightness and pleasant anticipation that the coming of outdoor pleasures always brings.

Strangers' Social

First of all, if your home is in the suburbs no doubt a great many families are moving from the city out your way just now, and I want to give you a few ideas for a social for "the stranger within the gates." I have gleaned these from young people's societies in Pennsylvania and Illinois. These young folk were anxious to become acquainted with the strangers who frequented their church, so they planned a social for them. Cards were handed to all strangers by the ushers on the Sunday preceding the social, requesting their presence at an "Acquaintance Meeting," to be held on a given date. Any member of the society failing to bring a stranger with him was fined five cents. If he brought a stranger belonging to another church he was

fined ten cents. This feature of the plan induced the members to hunt up strangers. A folder similar to that shown on this page was distributed. This one bears a facsimile of the Christian flag; the badge of the society giving such a social could be substituted. Underneath are the words: "This booklet is to be filled with autographs secured at the Acquaintance Meeting of the Young People's Association." Later, the filled folders were collected. A short program was given and refreshments were served; then the social closed with the return of the booklets to their owners, and amid the merriment attending the conferring of the degree of B. A. (Become Acquainted) upon the four persons who had secured the greatest number of autographs.



"Spring Breeze" Social

THEN for the next social meeting try a Spring Breeze Social. How's that for a name? It sounds refreshing anyway, doesn't it? Send out invitations written in blue ink on cards,

with a tiny windmill in one corner in blue. Decorate the church parlors with Japanese fans and parasols, and if you can manage it financially have some pretty fans for souvenirs. These could serve first as decoration for the refreshment table, with windmill paper napkins in Delft blue or Japanese ones folded like fans.

Yacht Race

Have for the first game a "yacht race." Hang a blue cheese-cloth "sea" on the wall, making a race-course and landing-place of white chalk. The guests, blindfolded, endeavor to pin small white paper sailboats to the landing-place. Their attempts are very laughable, and when the game is finished the craft make an effective display if the boats are of good design. The tiniest cup it is possible to get may be given to the winner.

Blowing the Feather

Arrange four baskets "east, north, south, and west." Assign the players, and provide each one with a small feather. The object is to see which group can first blow the feathers into the baskets, using palmleaf fans. Every "touchdown" in this game counts against rather than for the players. It is possible to accomplish the task without touching the feathers or allowing them to touch the floor.

This social was arranged as a recreation for a

society in which "plain living and high thinking" prevail regarding expenditure, and the whole was prepared for about forty people at small cost.

A Lively Outing

YOU are looking forward to summer vacation, aren't you? Well, if you want a social that will help the new members who have come into the society during the winter to get acquainted with the older members, and one that will be good fun for a small crowd that can be easily handled, this novel "outing" will please all of them:

Send your invitations on telegram blanks inclosed in the telegram envelopes which Sunday-School supply houses can furnish. To have them delivered by messengers will add to the importance of the message:

"Good time at Parsonage Thursday evening. Come join excursion party."

Arrange a ticket-office, a baggage-room, and a lunch-counter. Over the fireplace hang the placard: "No Smoking Allowed." At the ticket-office all guests are given slips on which part of a conundrum is written, and all slips are matched, which helps to break up the formality at the start. Arrange the chairs like car seats—two side by side on both sides of an aisle. When all are

seated "All aboard!" is heard. A topic for conversation is announced, as "What do you think of motoring?" and after a three-minute conversation the "conductor" shouts the name of a station and the young men move forward one seat. A new topic is then announced, "Where are you going to spend your vacation?" and so on. All who go on this trip will have a lively time. The company "arrives" at the end of the conversational trip, and the first game is a hunting party—for Noah's Ark animals, with a necklace of animal crackers for the winner of the most trophies.

Art Gallery

Another object of interest on the tour is an art gallery. This is prepared by cutting the silhouettes of well-known people in the church and mounting them on white or brown paper. Other games appropriate would be railroad charades, States, or telegrams.

Fishing Excursion

The final sport is fishing. Each young man is given a rod and line. The young women leave the room and a curtain is pinned across the doorway. The men throw their lines over the top, and the young women catch the ends on the other side. Each lucky fisherman then takes his prize to the "railroad lunch-counter,"

which is arranged in the kitchen, where coffee, sandwiches, fruit, etc., are served.

Nature Social

IDEAS are plenty for springtime socials for young people and for old people with young hearts, for with the approach of Easter we all look forward to Nature's coming again in her robes of springtime, and to tell of some different forms of Nature socials will not be out of order. They will sharpen the wits of young folks and teach them to observe and think.

If branches with leaves are not obtainable, decorate the room with bare branches having paper blossoms in pink in imitation of Japanese cherry blossoms. In the way of entertainment it will not be hard to make a selection for a reading from the books of some of America's great Nature lovers—Thoreau, Burroughs, or Emerson's "Wood Notes"; Bryant's "Forest Hymn" will make a good recitation, and "The Ivy Green" and "Under the Greenwood Tree" will make good musical numbers. After a tableau of "Babes in the Wood," some amusing tableaux which will illustrate words ending with the sound of "tree" may be given for the audience to guess: a small boy bowing and presenting a flower to a little girl will represent gallantry;

a row of shelves with jam-pots and a fat boy on a chair reaching for them will stand for pantry, and so on. If more guessing games are desired you might have the conundrums that are answered by parts or kinds of trees; as,

What part of a tree is like a dog?	Bark.
What part is like a stream?	Branch.
What part is like going away?	Leaves.
What part is like an elephant?	Trunk.
What part is like a hog?	Root.
What part is like a proud lady?	Vein.
What part is like a hindrance?	Stem.

These questions may be placed about the room to be answered within a given time.

The refreshments, served on wooden plates, should be such fruits as grow on trees: oranges, apples, bananas, dates, and figs.

Bird Social

A MOST enjoyable evening's entertainment was given under the title of a "Bird Party." The invitations read like this:

"Since birds of a feather flock together
I can no reason see
Why this same little trick
Shouldn't work 'twixt you and me.

In [place where held] you'll find a nest
  On Friday at the hour of seven;
We'll make it interesting while you're there,
  And entertain you until eleven.
Ten cents will admit you at the door,
  And you will get a new-style hat;
If you're quick at guessing various games
  You'll get a feather in that."

Attractively printed on cards these lines drew the people by the novelty promised. When the evening arrived they were made welcome by the social committee and were at once presented with "hats" made of pasteboard after the manner of a crown, each one having long stitches across the front and sides. These were immediately put on, and the people were conducted to the first contest.

On the wall were pinned ten Mother Goose pictures, and each guest was given a paper and a pencil and asked to write the corresponding rhymes. For every rhyme written correctly they were given a feather, which was stuck into one of the long stitches on the hat, chicken and turkey feathers being most prominent.

Bird Conundrums

The next contest was "Bird Conundrums," and had birds' names for its answers. For every perfect answer a feather was given.

What bird tells the time? Cuckoo.
What bird is needed in the harvest field? Thrasher.
What bird do you find in the meat market? Butcher.
What bird would you choose to have make a suit? Tailor.
What bird comes in early winter? Snowbird.
What bird suggests the children's pet? Catbird.
What bird is Uncle Sam's pet? Eagle.
What bird gave the name to a well-known poem? Raven.
What bird was caught thieving? Robin.
What bird is a colored letter? Blue jay.
What bird stands in the fire-place? Crane.
What bird is impertinent? Mocking-bird.
What bird is apt to be cowardly? Quail.
What bird is most untruthful? Lyre-bird.
What bird is mentally deranged? Loon.
What bird belongs to the Church of Rome? Cardinal.
What bird is a pessimist? Bluebird.
What bird do boys like on a windy day? Kite.
What bird resembles a brilliantly colored tool? Yellow hammer.

A third contest could be used, but by the time the second one was finished in this case the room was filled with a laughing lot of head-bedecked warriors.

Bird Pictures

Colored plates of birds are inexpensive; they prettily ornament the room, and may be put to good use afterward. One of them tastefully framed makes a good prize for the most quick-witted guesser.

Finding Partners

The names of fish may be used in the same way as those of the trees and birds. The funny part of one fishing excursion was that from a fish-pond the anglers caught "all-day-suckers," which were, of course, sufficient for the rest of the evening; though if refreshments are served a good way to provide partners is to give the men skewers, and have them wind up the lines which have been put around the room, in the cobweb-party fashion, until they come to the young women who are holding on to the hooks at the other end. Salmon sandwiches and coffee will do nicely for refreshments.

Another "Nature" Idea

THERE is a church in Massachusetts in which the young people make a point of meeting each other once every three weeks. The evening's entertainment is always in charge of a committee of five—three young women and two young men. After three years of such meetings the problem of how to provide a novel entertainment has become a serious one. This is how it was solved by one committee:

Announcement was made that the entertainment would take the form of a Nature Social.

As each person arrived he or she was given a card on which were the headings:

Birds Leaves Wild flowers

and under each heading were twenty numbers with blank spaces after each.

Arranging the "Exhibit"

At one side of the room, upon a table of convenient height, were placed twenty mounted specimens of birds seen in New England. On a line stretched across another side of the room hung cards bearing carefully preserved leaves of the best-known trees of the region, while near by were hung water-color drawings of New England wild flowers. The object was to guess the names of the birds, leaves, and flowers, and to write them upon the cards provided for that purpose.

As so much interest is now taken in Nature study, and young people are being trained to observe the things which belong to the world outdoors, considerable good-natured rivalry was awakened as to whose card would show the fewest blanks. Many times was heard, "I've seen that bird dozens of times, but I don't know its name"; or, "That leaf has a most familiar look, but I can't tell whether it is a walnut or an ash."

After an hour or more of guessing some one

having a key read the names which should fill the blank spaces on the cards.

A Test of Observation

The birds had been loaned the entertainment committee by the Natural History Society of the city, while the leaves and flowers were borrowed from one of the public schools, where they were used in instruction. There was present at the entertainment a professor from a near-by university. That he thought the evening one of interest from a scientific standpoint was shown by his asking to be allowed to take the cards away with him as an important record of what the average young person of the present knows of Nature. All pictures needed for such an evening's entertainment may be obtained in color from firms who make a specialty of supplying them for educational work in schools.

Seed Exchange

THE object of this social was to encourage friendliness among the members of the church, and to try to bring each person into conversation with every other one during the evening. Guests were asked to bring a bulb, root, slip, or seeds, done up in some odd shape, with directions in each package for the growing of the contents and the disposal of the harvest; the contents of

each package to be taken from one's own store on hand, without cost, and to be kept a secret.

There was "something to talk about" from the first as the people tried to find a clue to the contents of the mysterious boxes, pails, flower-pots, bundles, etc., of each arrival. Curiosity was thoroughly aroused by the time the rules of exchange were announced. "Exchanges shall be made only when the signal is given. Each package must be opened in secret and made ready for the next exchange. Five minutes will be allowed for each transfer. The tenth exchange will be announced as the last one; the package then held becomes the property of the person who has just secured it. Each person is free to do as he or she pleases with the package thus secured."

The exchange was then open for business. Immediately there was an animated scene. Where two or three tried to capture some one attractive basket, each proclaimed the superiority of his own package; one pictured wonderful growth, another assured a bountiful harvest. At the tap of the bell each person concluded an exchange with some one and withdrew to some corner to examine the new possession curiously. Shouts of laughter were heard from many directions. Of course, every one did up his or her

package quickly and started out to arrange the next exchange and capture, if possible, one of the packages more attractive in appearance. One of the bundles contained ground flaxseed, with the direction:

"In time of need
Use ground flaxseed;
Just wet it sorter
In clear hot water."

A package of cosmos seed carried the direction: "To be used for church decoration in August." Many bundles contained vegetable seeds, "To market and give proceeds to church."

After the exchange was closed all had a merry time comparing packages and giving advice. During the summer every one felt free to ask, "Mistress Mary, how does your garden grow?" and in the autumn it was remarked that nothing had done so much as the seed social to create a friendly feeling in the community.

Church "Shower"

WHILE the brides-to-be are reveling in "showers" of household utensils, why not use the same idea for the dining-room of the church? The institutional church has need of many things, and even the church with a small

dining-room needs to be equipped for its suppers and occasions when it is obliged to entertain conventions. The following rhyme appeared in a church bulletin, and the home of one of its members was opened for the guests. The members of the society giving it served fruit, ice cream, tea, and cake.

"Of all new pleasures under the sun,
Since ever the cycle of time begun,
A chance to do good and have some fun
Is surely at a church shower.

"The (——) Ladies' Aid
(Of nothing on earth are they afraid)
This delightfully happy plan has made
Of holding a church shower.

"So many things we need, you see,
That quite a heavy expense 'twould be,
So we'll give you a chance to help a wee,
By coming to our church shower.

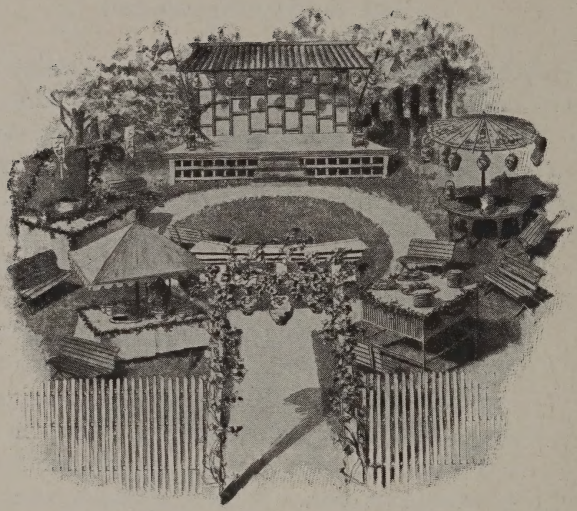
"Then come with your presents large or small,
Tea and welcome await you all;
Or give us your number, we'll gladly call,
For the good of our church shower."

Any of these articles will be acceptable: Salts and peppers, vinegar-bottles, tablecloths, tablespoons, creamers and sugar bowls, pickle-

dishes, butter-dishes, iron spoons, kettles, pans, dishpan, pails (large), silver knives and forks, curtains, tea-towels, towel-rack, boiler, kitchen range, salad-dishes, teapot of good size, tumblers, pie-plates, dustpans.

A "Shower" to Mend a Leak

Another way to use the shower idea is particularly adapted for the removal of a small debt incurred by repairing a leaking roof. The people are invited to a social evening for which a program has been prepared, and asked to bring their drops of rain for the shower of money in a silk bag provided with the attractively worded and printed invitation. When the proper time on the program comes each bag is dropped into an inverted decorated umbrella suspended from the ceiling.



CHAPTER V

OUTDOOR SOCIAL AFFAIRS

IN the days of early summer everything should be as spick-and-span about the church home as in the home which the spring house-cleaning has made as fresh as a June daisy, so I am going to give you first of all an idea along this line which a correspondent has sent to me.

Cleaning Up Around the Church

Now, after you have read this paragraph, just stop and think how things look around your

church, and see if your young people's society—or maybe the Sunday-school class to which you belong—couldn't help to improve things a little inside or outside. The one who sent me this idea says she was visiting in Nova Scotia when one of the old Scotch Presbyterian churches in the county in which she was staying was badly in need of repairs. There was enough money on hand to pay for painting the inside of the church, but not enough to cover the cost of having the yard cleaned up and other things done that would have made the surroundings more attractive. Some one suggested that they have a "Churchyard Party." I don't think I should expect to enjoy myself if I were going to a party with that kind of name—it seems a little incongruous, so if I had a part in one of these affairs I should call it an "All-day June-day Church-day," or put some catchy caption on to it, for we are all so curious, anyhow, that if you call a thing by a little different name everybody will come to see what you are up to.

Well, the people set a day, and the men of the church gathered to tear down the old fence, fill in the post-holes and clean up the yard. At the same time the women of the congregation cleaned windows, scrubbed floors, and put things in order generally. When the day's work was done

another group—those who could not do the laborious work—had supper prepared, which all enjoyed under the trees.

Strawberry Festival

BUT here's to the annual—the strawberry festival! Where is the church society that doesn't at this time of the year have an experience something like this:

"We ought to have a strawberry festival."

"What shall we have?"

"Same thing as usual, I suppose."

"I wish we could have something new."

Well, why not? Just plan a little. This original idea for a strawberry festival comes from Hawaii. The church folks there evidently know how to put originality and brightness into their social affairs.

The parish hall, where the "Strawberry Contest" was held, was decorated in pink and green. To each person who entered the contest a pink card was handed, on which were printed in green the riddles given below. The letters forming the answers are contained in the single word "Strawberries," which appeared at the top of the card. It was explained that letters were to be used only once in each answer except in the case of those occurring oftener in the word "Strawberries."

Three-quarters of an hour was allowed to fill in the answers. The refreshments were strawberries and cream, strawberry ice-cream, cakes with strawberry icing, and lemonade with ripe strawberries.

A Strawberry Game

Here are some of the riddles with their answers:

Have you a weak digestion?
Then leave me out of the question. (STEWS.)

Brought from China long ago
You like me best in china still, you know. (TEA.)

When autumn leaves begin to fall
I bloom beneath your garden wall. (ASTERS.)

I am the envy of the very stout;
I'm long, I'm short, I'm always round about. (WAIST.)

The sailor uses me to wash his ship;
You'll see him do it every trip. (SWAB.)

Never cut, though always on the table;
I'm hot, I'm cold, you use me all you're able. (WATER.)

By nature savage, yet it's very queer
Some women get one for a husband dear. (BEAR.)

By small boys molested,
By every one detested. (RAT.)

Row upon row, row upon row,
One above and one below. (TIER.)

If I'm left on your hands you'll abuse me,
But put me to sea and you'll use me. (TAR.)

In black or white, in gay or gray,
Every man chooses one each day. (TIE.)

I'm usually hard and cold;
I'm always given and never sold. (STARE.)

Half beast, half bird, am I.
See me fly from the tree so high. (BAT.)

I hum a song in your garden gay;
I'm always busy and seldom play. (BEE.)

I'm woman's weapon against man's rage
From childhood even unto old age. (TEAR.)

I am beloved by all, both low and high,
Because of the light within my eye. (STAR.)

Contests that Add Interest

Prize contests will add merriment to a strawberry festival in the country. Each contributor of berries exhibits a box representing the pick of his field. The first prize may be given for the finest-looking berries; the second for the most delicious-tasting berries.

A hulling contest will also enliven the festival. Place the berries in large pans and provide the young ladies with quart boxes. At a signal they commence to hull the berries. The awards go to those hulling the most and the fewest within a stated time.

Next have a fruit-sampling contest. Have a dozen different kinds of fruit cut into small pieces. Blindfold the contestants and let them guess by taste only what each fruit is; the final test could be the number of berries in a box held up before them. Other guessing contests dealing with fruits, flowers, birds, etc., could be arranged.

A Cycle of Pleasure

HERE is still another variation. This we shall call "A Cycle of Pleasure," as illustrated at the head of this chapter. For this you could use an idea carried out in a suburban town, where at a lawn fête an interested crowd was assembled because of some novel advertising. The committee on advertising had small signs, about twelve inches by eighteen, printed on muslin. These were stretched between laths pointed at the lower ends. A few evenings before the event the committee placed these signs on the lawns of houses on the prominent streets. On the morning of the fête-day they pasted on the sidewalk at intervals of about six feet, footprints twelve inches long cut out of heavy paper, all leading toward the grounds where the fête was to be held. Being put on only with paste, they were washed away in the first summer shower.

On these were printed with marking-ink: "To the Lawn Fête," "Take a Trolley," "Or Walk," "To Get Good Things to Eat," "Not Far Now," "Almost There," "Just a Little Farther," "One Step More," "This is the Place."

On the Way Around

If you decide to try this "Cycle" plan, decorate the grounds with Japanese lanterns and at the entrance have a large arch covered with greens and hung with lanterns.

The tables should be placed at equidistant points about the grounds, covered with linen cloths and decorated with strawberry-vines. At the first table on the right as one enters are the lettuce sandwiches and chicken salad, which are served to those taking the seats near by.

Going on, keeping to the right, one comes to a large Japanese umbrella, beneath which are Japanese maidens serving tea and rice wafers from a low table.

Taking up the march again, the fruit table is reached, where are strawberries frozen, in tarts, in ice-cream, and really in any way you desire to have them.

At the fourth station on this round trip is the flag tent, where coffee and cake are served. Of course, this arrangement may be varied.

Japanese Program

But after partaking of these refreshments there is more pleasure in store. On the platform which you will see at the back of the picture a Japanese entertainment will be given under the light of the lanterns.

Here are a few suggestions for such a program:

Japanese Parasol March and Drill:

For sixteen girls in Japanese ladies' costume or sixteen boys in Mandarin costume.

Three Japanese Songs:

"Miyoko San."
"A Japanese Legend" (for a barytone voice).
"A Lesson with the Fan."

Japanese Lullaby ("Sleep, Little Pigeon"):

This is the poem by Eugene Field, set to music by William Neil. It will make a charming close to a unique round of pleasure if sung by little girls while lulling their dollies to sleep; the children and dolls being dressed in Japanese costume.

Providing for the "Rainy Day"

"WHAT shall we do if it rains?" asks every committee on a lawn social. Weather not on its best behavior is the only fear of the workers, and if it threatens they plan to run. One way of escape suggests itself in what

some Minnesota young people did. It had rained for weeks, and they were discouraged, for they had a reputation for good times outdoors. "Let's have an Umbrella Social," hazarded one member of the committee as a suggestion.

"Whoever heard of such a thing?"

Well, they started.

I don't believe you and I could carry it out just as they did, but we will use as many of their ideas as we can and add some ideas of our own and of our other friends. I would try first for the lawn of the church, and for the use of a suitable room—in case it rains—or for the lawn of some hospitable woman friend and her first-floor rooms, if need be.

Cut some umbrella-shaped invitations six inches long of gray paper and write your invitation in black;

> "On Tuesday next, at half-past eight,
> Bring your umbrella to our gate.
> (Who's wise to this attends.)
> Come, shine or rain!
> And in your train
> Your family and friends!"

At the Umbrella Social

Now here's a good use for all the old umbrella frames without covers that you can get. Open

them and cut off the handles, then cover them with crepe paper in all the colors of the rainbow; or cover them first with mosquito netting and then flowers, foliage or rosettes, silver paper stars, or gilt paper moons. These umbrellas are hung under the trees, and if it rains they may be hung in the house in doorways, in a line over the stairs, over the dining-table, and on the porch. You will have to use lanterns for light outdoors.

Now it would be a good arrangement to provide some form of entertainment under each umbrella. Under one have some one play the banjo and sing; under others the young folks may recite, tell stories, offer comb or mouth-organ solos, prepare chafing-dish refreshments, and so on. Or a series of progressive games might be arranged.

A Rainbow Menu

Or another way to use these decorations would be to group the umbrellas according to their colors and place under each color a small table correspondingly decorated, from which a portion of the supper, corresponding in color as nearly as may be, is served. Each person receives a papier-maché plate, with fork, spoon, etc., at the first table, and takes them with him to the other tables, from each of which he receives a helping. Here are a few suggestions for the menu in the order of the rainbow colors:

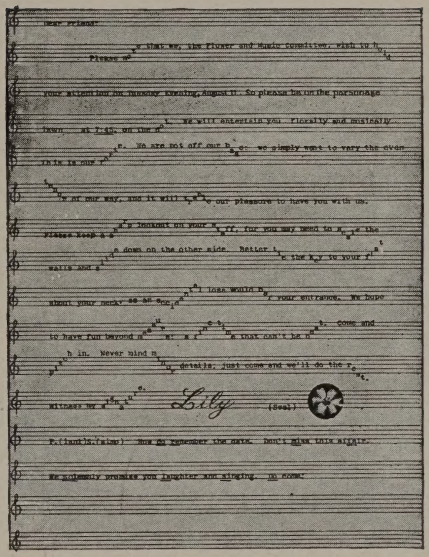
Red: Ham or tongue, tomatoes, radishes, beets.
Orange: Orange cake, cheese crackers, coffee with cream.
Yellow: Bananas, pears, peaches, lemonade.
Green: Lettuce salad, olives, watercress sandwiches.
Blue and Indigo: Blueberry cake.
Violet: Candy straws.

Miniature rain-barrels might be distributed, with the understanding that a "shower" of pennies is to be caught in them and that they are to be returned upon a given date. Or these barrels might be distributed previously, with the invitation, asking for a "shower" of dimes to be returned on the evening of the Umbrella Social.

A Novel Invitation

DEAR FRIEND: Please *note* that we, the Flower and Music Committee, wish to *hold* your attention on Tuesday evening, August eleventh. So please be on the Parsonage lawn at 7.45 on the *dot*. We will entertain you florally and musically. This is our *forte*. We are not off our *base*. We simply want to vary the even *tenor* of our way, and it will *treble* our pleasure to have you with us. Please keep a *sharp* lookout on your *staff*, for you may need to *scale* the walls and *slide* down on the other side. Better *tie* the *key* to your *flat* about your neck, as an *accidental* loss would *bar* your entrance. We hope to have fun beyond *measure*, a *fine time* that can't be *beat*. Come and *pitch* in. Never mind *minor* details; just come and we'll do the *rest*. Witness my *signature*.

LILY. (Seal.)



P. (iani) S. (simo): Now *do re*member the date. Don't *mi*ss this af*fa*ir. We *sol*emnly promise you *la*ughter and *si*nging. *Do* come.

June Musical

THE quartette choir of a New Jersey church gave a Rose Musical which was a decided success. This was held indoors, but the program is so Junelike that I give it here, and the entertainment might easily be transferred to the lawn.

The pulpit was a garden; the effect being carried out by obtaining a wagonload of low bushes, on which were wired hundreds of pink-paper roses. These were placed in large pots and jardinières. The low branches were broken, so as to cover the floor and also to hide the receptacles. On the right-hand side of the garden was an immense umbrella covered with roses and vines, under which the quartette sat on rustic benches. A small tree placed at each side of the pulpit helped to give the whole scene a delightful wood-and-garden appearance.

The program was entirely the rose in song and story, and was printed on the reverse of a piece of thin Bristol-board trimmed to fit a rose about five inches and a half by four, cut from wall-paper. The program follows:

Organ Selections.....	(*a*) To a Wild Rose. (*b*) A Rosebud.
Quartette.....	The Red, Red Rose.
Reading.....	Old-fashioned Roses
Solo.....	Life and the Rose.
Duet.....	Go, Pretty Rose.
Solo.....	Nightingale and Rose.
Reading.....	Decoration Day on the Place.
Solo.....	Yellow Roses.
Quartette.....	Tell Me, Roses.

Festival of Roses

FOR a social on a lawn where roses are grown in profusion nothing could be more pleasing than a festival of roses. The rustic booths should be veritable bowers of these flowers. An effective idea is to carry out the color scheme in detail. For instance, at the booth where lemonade is served only yellow roses should be used; from the pink rose booth strawberry ice-cream may be served, and raspberry vinegar and white cake from the red and white booth.

Those who receive the guests offer a rose to each one, and a committee wearing garlands of roses distribute the program cards. The upper left-hand corner of the card might be punctured and a tiny rosebud inserted. The program should consist of appropriate selections. Recitations about roses and other flowers usually are to be found in the services published for Children's Day, and flower songs may be obtained through all first-class music dealers.

The lawn of one home where a social of this kind was held was lighted by Japanese lanterns, and hammocks, lawn swings, and rustic seats gave a restful, inviting appearance to the grounds and added to sociability. The vocal and instrumental selections given on this occasion were:

May Morning.....*Denza.*
Spring Song.....*Mendelssohn.*
The Sweetest Flower that Grows.. .....*Hawley.*
Flower Song.....*Lange.*
Sweet Bunch of Daisies.....*Owen.*
(Four little girls carrying daisies.)
Deep in a Rose's Glowing Heart.....*Nevin.*

Lawn-Cutting Social

A NEW and lively church social was that given by some young people who worshiped in a beautiful little stone church set in the midst of a pretty lawn and surrounded by shade trees.

Having no regular sexton, the young people volunteered to care for the grounds. On Sunday it was announced that a Lawn-Cutting Social would be given on Thursday evening at seven-thirty. The young men were expected to cut, rake, and beautify the lawn; the young ladies to serve refreshments. When the evening came the young men entered with zest into the work, and as darkness overtook them the light from the Chinese lanterns with which the grounds were decorated made it possible for them to keep on.

Two Ideas for Porch Socials

PORCH socials are a good diversion for the summer months, and while they may be most informal and merry, there may be something gained from them, too. For instance, we hardly

realize how egotistical we are. Try this some evening while on the porch. The young ladies of the society giving it had previously held a "Mum" Social.

A Non-Egotistical Evening

The young ladies are asking you again to come,
But this time remember you're not to keep "mum";
You may talk as you will, but this we decree:
You must not use "I," nor "Myself," nor "Me."
You may talk of all others and of their good health,
But we'll fine you five cents if you speak of yourself.
Cake and ice-cream we'll give to you all,
So, during the evening please make us a call;
Bring all your friends, and come with good will,
But remember of self you must try to keep still.

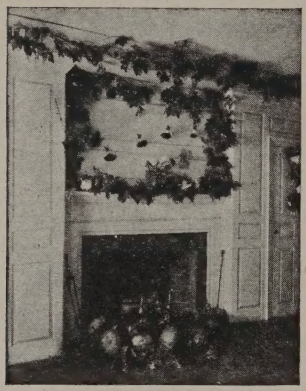
Now all the members of your society are Bible students, aren't they? Well, try a Spelling Match on the porch, selecting the words from the Bible. First, spell the books of the Bible; second, the proper names; third, the geographical names. They are not easy and the clergyman who gave me this idea said that not half of his people were standing after the first round.

CHAPTER VI

OCTOBER MERRYMAKINGS

HALLOWE'EN Socials are popular, so to meet an apparent need of suggestions I want to tell you about some October socials that afforded a lot of fun.

The old Hallowe'en ceremonies, when they were seriously observed, were too thrilling and picturesque to be allowed later to pass out of sight, so now instead of attaching any significance, religious or otherwise, to the old customs we have turned them into harmless merrymakings.



Do you know that when you bob for apples you are following a superstitious practise of the heathen Druids who on November first lighted their fires to Baal? But in some countries the bonfires are kindled in honor of the harvest and home-coming festivals at that time, and if your

society wishes to enjoy an evening of fireside revelries why not make Hallowe'en the home-coming night, after all have returned from the summer outings?

Good Times on Hallowe'en

Here is a form of entertainment which employs the old beloved symbols of the night and yet is less boisterous than apple-ducking and taffy pulling:

A pumpkin, a large ear of yellow field-corn, a pint of peanuts in the shell, a pound of pecans in the shell, a basket of apples, one beautiful chrysanthemum, a large bunch of Malaga grapes, and a bough of red oak leaves are the requisites for the entertainment. And these same articles may serve as decorations during the evening.

The game is to guess the number of parts of each one of the list, for instance:

How many grains on the ear of corn?
How many seeds in the pumpkin?
How many grapes in the bunch?
How many pecans in a pound?
How many petals on the chrysanthemum?
How many peanuts in a pint?
How many leaves on the oak bough?
How many apples in the basket?

The answers when this game was played a year ago were, respectively, 851, 474, 154, 93, 439, 37,

140, 46. They will serve as an indication of the possible answers, which, of course, would probably never be the same twice.

Guessing on the Decorations

The husks of the corn were stripped back far enough to grant a view of the entire ear. This was suspended by a ribbon in the doorway; the bunch of grapes was also suspended in the same way. The oak bough decorated almost a whole corner of the room, being hung on a nail driven high in the wall. The chrysanthemum stood in a tall vase on a table, and the nuts were in glass dishes on smaller tables. The apples were the little "snow apples," placed in a pretty basket. The seeds of the pumpkin had been dried in the oven and were also in a glass dish. A fine specimen of pumpkin should be selected; cut a round lid from the top and after taking out the seeds wash the pumpkin and lid carefully.

A Game that Men Will Enjoy

The entertainment appealed to the men, and, as you know, they are sometimes hard to interest in games; but what man or boy does not like to try his powers of calculation? There was a prize appropriate to the question for the best calculator. For the grains of corn, an imitation ear of corn filled with bonbons, purchased at the

confectioner's; for the seeds of the pumpkin, the pumpkin itself filled with taffy "kisses," etc. Of course, the answers had actually been obtained beforehand, except in the case of the chrysanthemum, which was judged by one section of the flower, and the grapes, which were counted after the company had guessed.

To elaborate the decorations, portières may be made by stringing on heavy black thread black cats and witches cut from heavy black paper, and yellow paper crescents; threaded corn may also be used for portières, held back by bunches of the corn in their husks.

Two Ways to Start Conversation

But if you do not want to start these games until you are sure all have arrived, and want to break up any formality, have you tried the plan of tying a paper bag on the right hands of the guests and asking them to wear the bags until they have worn them out shaking hands?

Another good way to get the company into conversational groups is to give to each group seventy-five toothpicks and let them print a sentence by laying the little pieces of wood in order. Quotations from Mother Goose could be called for, as: "Jack Spratt could eat no fat." A reward may be given for the neatest arrangement of words.

Game of Pulling Cabbages

A good game a little out of the ordinary is pulling the cabbages. At a party where this was played one of the smaller rooms had been closed all the evening. In it were rows of "cabbages" made of green paper, and "pumpkins" made of yellow paper. Both "cabbages" and "pumpkins" were very small specimens. There were about seventy-five of each in the room, and they were made to represent the autumn garden as much as possible, with the aid of vines, dried grasses, etc.

Ten young men and ten girls were asked to take part in this game. They were stationed at the farther end of the room from the "Cabbage Patch," the young men in the front row. Five of the young men were to gather pumpkins, and five cabbages. Only one pumpkin or cabbage was to be pulled at a time; it was to be brought to the partner, and the trip made for another, and so on until there were no more to be had. The young man who brought his lady the greatest number of cabbages and the one who gathered the greatest number of pumpkins each received a prize. They started at a signal, and as but one of the "fruits" could be brought at a trip the fun was fast and furious.

An Invitation that Rallies the Forces

TO produce an effective stir-up in drawing a good attendance at a social the following folder form of invitation has been used with success. This provides also for any expenses that may be incurred in making the evening both enjoyable and unusual. Page one has this announcement:

A ROUND-ROBIN INVITATION
to the
ANNUAL HALLOWE'EN "GRAND-GET-TOGETHER"
of the Young People's Society
of ——— Church
(Place and Date)
(See Inside)

On page two:

"You are personally invited by the last one named on the opposite page. You, in turn, are expected to sign your name on the next line and extend the invitation to some one of the church whom you would like to attend, alternately young men and young women. An expense charge of ten cents will be made. The tenth person receiving will please sign and bring the invitation on Hallowe'en. If you do not care to come, please return this invitation without your name to the one from whom you received it. Do not sign more than one invitation."

Page three is ruled with ten numbered lines for signatures.

Ten of these printed forms will reach one hundred persons with a personal invitation; more forms may be started if desired. It will be obvious that when each invitation has been passed to five persons there will be quite a searching to discover the ones who have not been invited, and incidentally the first ones invited will have been accosted enough to arouse their desire to attend. The invitations being returned, the names on each may be used to form a group for games or for tables at supper.

The Witches' Encampment

Of course, you will want the Hallowe'en "atmosphere," as authors call it, and there are many ways to get it. One is to plan a "Witches' Encampment," having, say, half a dozen tents wherein are tried the various Hallowe'en tricks of divination. For instance, a large tub of pink water in one tent is presided over by one of the witches. Three candles float, lighted, in candlesticks upon the water: a pink one named for the girl whose fortune is to be told, and two white ones named secretly by her. The witch tells the fortune by the course each white candle takes. Another witch has a cake containing the usual ring, thimble, and piece of money. You will want a row of grinning goblins at the entrance, with pump-

kin heads mounted on seven-foot poles draped in cheese-cloth and provided with crosspieces to represent skeleton arms. At the door have two witches who give out cards, "Redeem at the caldron," which may be presented any time during the evening; but instead of the witches' "brew" they are more up-to-date, and offer you fruit punch.

A "Stunt Ball" is Great Fun

To arrange for a seemingly impromptu program it is very amusing to have a witch preside over a "Stunt Ball." Inflate a punching-bag, then wind over it three skeins of wool; in the last skein tie at intervals slips of paper on which you have written "stunts," as a boy ties scraps of newspaper on twine for the tail of his kite. The ball will arouse the curiosity of the guests. After the guests are assembled the witch announces: "This is the ball of fate or stunts." It is unwound quickly and the first "stunt" is that the president of your society shall act as Stunt-master for the evening. Second, the president's wife will wind the yarn with care, so that her mother can use it for knitting a scarf for an Alaskan Indian. Third, all of the company please rise and join in singing the first stanza of "Home, Sweet Home." Fourth, "Our own artist on the spot," Miss B., will now make a sketch. Fifth, Miss A. will show

her skill by adorning a hat with the United States colors—red, white, and blue. Sixth, Mr. S., please sing us a song. Seventh, Miss R. will kindly favor us with a violin solo. Eighth, Miss C., please give an illustration of your favorite method of getting rid of agents. Ninth, Mr. J. W. will be kind enough to draw his "castle in the air." Tenth, a whistling solo from Mr. B., the United States Bullfinch, is now in order. Or strictly Hallowe'en tricks may be called for, like blowing out candles blindfolded, biting an apple suspended by a string, etc.

The "Shadowy Wise Man"

"A Shadowy Wise Man" is a novelty. He should be enveloped in white and remain out of sight until the conductor of this part of the program has made his introductory speech telling of the marvelous wisdom which is about to be imparted. The conductor should be a good talker, capable of making original remarks for the amusement of the audience. After the introduction the Wise Man silently and solemnly appears and takes his seat. The conductor then asks for volunteers to come forward and throw their shadows so as to strike the head of the Wise Man. As each applicant throws the shadow the Wise Man hands to the

conductor one of the written slips, which is read by the conductor in a very pompous and impressive manner. He should frequently call the attention of the audience to the great value of the marvelous pearls of wisdom which are given out by the Shadowy Wise Man. This portion of the program may be made a very amusing feature in the hands of the right person. The Shadowy Wise Man is provided with many slips of paper on which are written suitable "words of wisdom," of which the following are fair samples:

If you wish to do good acts go around cold mornings and get up for people, or go around among undecided people and make up their minds.

If you place your hand on a hot stove, by mistake or otherwise, it would be well to remove it at your earliest convenience, as this is one way in which to prevent unpleasant consequences.

If you have an excellent cook and are paying her nothing, it would be wise to double her wages.

If a gentleman rides horseback with a lady he should always ride on the right side. According to some authorities the right side is the left. According to others the other is the right. If the gentleman is left-handed this will, of course, make a difference. Should he be ambidextrous it will be indifferent.

When the "Sandwitches" Appear

It will be quite in keeping with the uncanniness of the evening to have the "Sandwitches" sud-

denly appear and march solemnly around the room, to the deafening music of serving-trays lustily beaten with the knuckles. They are dressed in white, with yellow kerchiefs and black and yellow witches' caps two feet tall, made of paper. These witches solemnly file out and presently reappear with nut sandwiches, Waldorf salad, and little English cakes; for Hallowe'en, besides being "Nutcrack night," was also the time when good people would "bake brade and dele it for all crysten soules," and even yet, they say, in some parts it is called "Cake Night," because the housewife bakes a cake for every one of her family.

Other Lively Hallowe'en Ideas

FOR another jolly Hallowe'en celebration, decorate the room in red, screening the lights with shades of that color, adding as much autumnal foliage as you can secure, and placing about a few Jack-o-lanterns—without which Hallowe'en seems not quite complete.

When the hour for entertaining comes, have nine girls in white, with red caps and aprons, march around singing a welcome song, and as they sing the chorus, in a close circle, have them throw among the audience handfuls of candy—bits of

taffy wrapped first in wax paper and afterward in bright-colored tissue paper.

The program should be a complete surprise and the numbers unannounced. Three solos, three recitations, and three quartettes will be sufficient, and aside from the members of the quartette, who must of necessity rehearse together, none of the participants should know who else, if any one, is to take part; all should be gowned in ghost's attire, and masked, to be unknown. Judges should be appointed, and the best performer in each class should be rewarded —pumpkins hollowed out and filled with fruit probably will serve for this purpose better than any article that could be purchased.

At the Witches' Screen

After the prizes have been awarded, let the audience move about informally and visit the Witches' Screen and partake of the Witches' Brew, which for this occasion may be hot coffee. The screen is made of some yellow cotton material and is decorated with black cats, bats, stars, crescents, and the old witch riding her broom. Slits are cut in the screen to allow four couples to place their hands through, so they can pass the following articles from one to another: a hot potato, a raw oyster, a piece of ice, a snake made of dough, a potato filled with toothpicks, and a

sausage skin filled with air and dipped in ice-water. Much merriment is caused by trying to guess what each article is.

A Conundrum "Shower"

As a final surprise and to afford some amusement a large paper cornucopia should be suspended from the ceiling, the severing of the cord which keeps it in position allowing it to shower upon the merrymakers slips of paper containing conundrums and their answers.

Hallowe'en on a California Ranch

A novel feature at a Hallowe'en social was that introduced on a California fruit ranch two miles from a town. The guests met at the church and were taken in hay-racks to the home of the hostess. The house was lighted by pumpkin lanterns with faces bearing all sorts of expressions.

The usual Hallowe'en tricks were tried, but the big surprise came with the serving of refreshments. The guests were assembled on the lawn, and each was given a plate, a bowl, and a spoon and told that the witches would serve chile con-cana to all who were brave enough to go out through the back yard, past the barn, which was said to be inhabited by goblins, and through the peach orchard to the vacant lot beyond.

As the procession started a huge pile of brush was lighted in the distance, and in its glare three witches were discovered bending over a large kettle swung on a tripod, stirring its contents with long-handled ladles. As they stirred they muttered the old jingle:

> "Double, double, toil and trouble;
> Fire burn, and caldron bubble."

Goblins dressed in green cambric gowns, made in Mother Hubbard fashion, with loose sleeves and pointed hoods and green gloves, and green face masks to make the illusion complete, passed salted crackers to the guests after they had been served by the witches. The scene was picturesque and was enjoyed almost as much as the contents of the caldron, while the bonfire afforded amusement for the children, for whom also were provided tubs of water, in which they ducked for bright red apples.

CHAPTER VII

NOVEMBER CELEBRATIONS

OUR national Thanksgiving Day is a harvest festival, and as many of the young people's societies, after the religious services of the day are over, like to provide entertainment for their friends in the evening, it will be a good idea to have a social in the nature of a Harvest Home, when all those who may have been away for a long time, and also new members and strangers, may be made welcome. Autumnal decorations cannot help but be pretty in their natural gracefulness and rich coloring, and if you are in the city and cannot get these things you can have a pleasant evening by asking some friends to help you make some good paper imitations. The "Welcome" greeting at the head of this chapter is spelled out on leaves of yellow cardboard veined in red; the supporting rope should be of evergreen. At the Harvest Homes held in the country in the late summer it is usual to have

a good—a very good—dinner, so you will be expected to offer a good menu. But here is a secret: it is the menu that is to be offered, not the dinner, and either of the two forms given will provide amusement, although sharp wits will be required, rather than sharp appetites.

An Imaginary Feast

Where this Thanksgiving "dinner" was served in Illinois, some time ago, on arrival at the church the men were instructed to find their partners for "dinner." The committee had prepared, to aid them in this, a little scheme to insure general sociability. They had taken small cards, cutting each in halves in an irregular fashion, so that no two cards were alike. On the half of the card given to the man was written the question: "For what should I be thankful?" and on the other half, given to the woman, an answer, such as "For health," "For friends," "For prosperity," "For books," etc.

When every one had found a partner, "dinner" was announced, the menus were distributed, and the guessing began. The dessert course was genuine and was actually served in the church parlor. Any seasonable refreshments will do if you try this plan, as the feast up to that course will be entirely imaginative. The to-be-guessed menu was in part—

What Will You Have For Dinner?

"Cloy the hungry appetite by bare imagination of a feast."—*Shakespeare.*

Oysters.

"Fruit of the wave! O dainty and delicious."—*Croffut.*

A color and sharp ends. (Blue points.)

Soups.

"'Tis hot, it smokes."—*Shakespeare.*

To imitate and an amphibian. (Mock turtle.)
An animal and an appendage. (Ox-tail.)

Fish.

"This dish of meat is too good for any but anglers or very honest men."—*Walton.*

Part of a cage. (Perch.)
Name of a cape. (Cod.)
Part of a shoe, less one letter. (Eel.)

Fowl.

"Nothing in his life became him like the leaving it."—*Shakespeare.*

A country. (Turkey.)
A silly person. (Goose.)
Two letters and an English drink. (Quail.)

Meats.

"There's no meat like 'em."—*Shakespeare.*

A son of Noah. (Ham.)
Mary's pet. (Lamb.)
An insect and a letter. (Beef.)

VEGETABLES.

"How green you are and fresh."—*Shakespeare.*

Half of a sweet flower. (Peas.)
What Pharaoh saw in a dream. (Corn.)
A short visit, two parts of "visit," and that of which bread is made. (Cauliflower.)

RELISHES.

"A brittle glory."—*Shakespeare.*

Part of a house and a letter. (Celery.)

"Some of us will smart for it."—*Shakespeare.*

A beast of burden and a small vegetable. (Horseradish.)

"Do you like the taste?"—*Shakespeare.*

A shade of green. (Olives.)

SALADS.

"I'll warrant there's vinegar and pepper in it."—*Shakespeare.*

A carriage and length of life. (Cabbage.)
Slang for an awkward fellow. (Lobster.)

DESSERT.

"The daintiest last to make the end most sweet."—*Shakespeare.*

"Lead in your ladies, every one.
Sweet partner, I must not yet forsake you."—*Shakespeare.*

(This course will be served in the parlor. Refreshments appropriate to the Thanksgiving time may be served.)

Another Form of Mock Dinner

Another way to serve the mock dinner will probably afford greater merriment. It has been carried out in the following way: For the first "course," soup, a number of clay pipes and a large bowl of soapsuds were used. The pipes were all numbered, those for the women corresponding with those for the men, and distinguished by a pink cord. The bowl was placed on a stand in the middle of the room, and the different couples (one couple at a time, as their number was called) had to stand in the middle of the room and blow bubbles. Both had three turns, and the one who blew the largest of the six bubbles was decided to be the "biggest blower," and received a star on his or her menu card. Tally was kept of each "course."

For the next "course," fish, two toy fish-ponds were placed on tables and those who were partners in the first "course" were partners this time, too. Two couples fished from each pond.

For the next "course," roast, two pans of peanuts were placed at one end of the room, and two empty cans at the other end. This time the couples were paired by numbered slips of paper given out. The object was to get as many peanuts as possible on the back of the left hand and carry them to the other end of the room, the

woman putting hers in one can and the man putting his in the other.

For the next "course," light entrée, a lighted candle was placed on a table, each person was blindfolded, turned around three times, and given three chances to blow out the candle.

Then came real refreshments, and after that a dish of bonbons was passed around, each person taking one. This was the "dessert." Instead of the little verse which was usually found, there was a slip of paper on which was written a conundrum. Each one was given three chances to answer his or her own. If the one who held it could not answer, any one else might do so.

At the close of the "dinner" a prize was awarded to both the man and the woman who had won the greatest number of stars. Anything appropriate to a dinner will answer. The little ten-cent pincushions made to resemble vegetables are amusing.

Have You Had an Apple Social?

IF not, when the autumn months are coming on and the orchards are full of splendid apples, why not try an "Apple Social"? Whether you are near the bending orchards or not, the markets will serve you. Decorate the rooms with branches to which apples have been tied. Have

every variety that possibly can be obtained in orchard or market. The golden ones among the bright red ones make a very pretty sight.

Divide your company off in groups of the required number and give each one a letter that goes to make up the name of some variety. Say a company of nine people are given the name "Sheep Nose," each one receiving one letter. Together they decide what their variety is, and are to compose a poem setting forth its merits above all the other varieties. The poem that receives the favor of the judges is awarded a basket of assorted apples to be divided among the composers.

All the little games played with apples may be indulged in, such as fortune-telling with apple seeds, throwing the peeling over the shoulder, trying to eat an apple suspended by a string, an apple race, etc.

An Apple Love Story

Almost every one knows the Musical Romance and Floral Love Story games, but do you know this one, in which the names of apples are to be guessed and filled in to make the story complete?

She was a pretty Southern lass. Her father's name was Rawle, so she was called (Rawle's Janet). She carried herself like a peeress and might have been mistaken for the (Duchess of Oldenburgh). In (Winter) she wore a

beautiful coat of (Golden Russet) color and a (Red Astrachan) cap. She always walked along so lightly that it seemed as if she weighed no more than a (Twenty-ounce Pippin). Her lips were red as a (Cherry) and she was the (Bell) of the town. She had two lovers. This fact added a little variety, which is the (Spice) of life. Their names were (Jonathan Seedling) and (Ben Davis). The first one was from Rhode Island, so the second one jestingly called him the (Rhode Island Greening), which name did not apply at all, as he was from a cultured and (Wealthy) family and had more than the usual amount of brains and good breeding. He retaliated by calling the other one a (Missouri Pippin), as he was from Missouri. He hadn't much hair on the top of his head, but that didn't matter, because sometimes the (Baldwin). One day when the girl and lover number one were taking a walk down by the (Smokehouse) they saw a (Sheepnose) sticking through the bars of the pasture fence, and as they went on down to the brook, past the hired man who was turning the (Grindstone), they saw a (Crab) scramble up on the bank, which was so large it must have weighed nearly a (Pound). When they reached the woods the young man cut a (Willow Twig) and put it on her head as a wreath and told her she was his (Queen). He said he had sought for her for years. This made her (Blush), and she said, "(Seek-No-Further)," for I am thine. This was a great disappointment to the other young man who worked hard during (Harvest) to drown his sorrow and said he did not care if he were exiled to a (Siberian) clime.

This story can easily be lengthened by interpolating sentences containing names of apples, for from Government reports we learn that there

are hundreds and hundreds of different kinds of apples.

Popcorn and apples, an apple-and-nut salad, or apple pie and coffee would be suitable refreshments for such a social.

It is not hard to find suitable readings and recitations for autumn social evenings. Our American poets have said many beautiful things about the harvest time.

A "Meadow Lark"

In localities where warm weather continues late in the fall a social in the form of a Meadow Lark will be thoroughly enjoyed. A meadow with a large pile of dry brush in it is the one thing needful. To make the grounds ready a number of logs should be arranged as seats, a strong table built and logs laid as foundations for two fires, which may be kindled with the brush. The fires should be lighted just before the guests arrive. Over one, in a large kettle, the ingredients for a good soup may be cooking, and coffee may be made over the same fire. The other fire should be covered with coals, which will soon be just right for roasting the various good things provided.

On the table conveniently near the fires place big piles of sweet corn, potatoes, apples, or anything edible which may be roasted in a short time; also bread and butter and seasonings, and plenty

of dishes for serving. Long pointed sticks should be furnished for holding the roasting food. Every one is supposed to be his own cook, but on such occasions the coöperative plan is popular.

A Successful Harvest Social

HOW surprised every one was at the changed appearance of the Sunday-school room! All the chairs had been removed and at various places stood great shocks of corn. Upon the wall were hung red berries and bright-hued autumn leaves, garlands of which may be easily made if the leaves are gathered as they fall, waxed, pressed, and strung on strong threads. In the center of the room was arranged a large semicircular divan made of pew cushions covered with dark, richly-colored draperies. There were a number of sofa-pillows heaped upon the divan. The room was dark save for the light which glimmered from hideous-faced pumpkin lanterns.

The committee in charge welcomed the guests and invited them to be seated in the charmed circle. The first thing that met their gaze was an immense pile of corn on the cob. Over this, standing on three legs, was a goblin pumpkin with three pairs of glaring eyes, three noses, and three large mouths. A hush fell upon the company, while here and there could be heard a suppressed giggle. Suddenly a chorus of girls' voices broke

out in a bright autumn song to enliven the drooping spirits of the guests.

Telling Ghost Stories

No sooner had their fears been somewhat allayed than a spectral figure approached from behind a curtain and sat down by the heap of corn. All held their breath as it slowly reached out its hand and pulled an ear of corn from the pile, gazed at a tag which was fastened to it by a ribbon, read the name of some one who was present, and threw that person the ear of corn, demanding in a deep, thrilling voice, "A ghost story." It is needless to describe the quaking and shivering while the story was being told. The dashing piano solo which followed was fully appreciated.

A second ghost story was demanded in like manner as the first, after which came singing, more stories, and music. Then one of the girls who could recite well stood facing the company, with a background of curtains, and gave Whittier's poem, "The Pumpkin." When she reached the last stanza the curtains back of her were drawn, as if by spirits, disclosing a long table covered with a snowy cloth, upon which were piles of doughnuts, pumpkin pies, cheese, and cups of steaming coffee. Every one gave an exclamation of surprise at the sight, and refreshments were served amid much fun and laughter.

The social closed with gifts of a pie apiece to each of the volunteer talent, and an ear of corn, tied with bright ribbon, to each guest.

Why the Social was a Success

In order to have the ghost stories a success the committee arranging the program had provided good ones to be told, and a great deal of the success of the entertainment as a whole was due to the fact that its nature had been kept secret, and curiosity having been aroused an unusually large number of people attended.

When the "Holidays" Entertain

THE young people who gave this "Holiday Party" sent out the following invitation, and the committee refused to answer any questions regarding the social, telling the questioners to come and find out what it was.

"There is a young Y. P. C. U.,
With numbers appallingly few,
Who ask you to come
For an evening of fun.
To our Holiday Party. Oh, do!"
(Place.) (Date.)

The church parlors were well filled, and a few minutes past eight the chairman of the committee announced the first holiday to be celebrated would naturally be New Year's Day, and a short reception would be held, the gentlemen calling on the

ladies present. A bell was used to signal each "caller" to change places with some one else, so that several calls might be made. There was music during the reception, which lasted about fifteen minutes.

The next holiday was Valentine's Day. Pencils and paper were passed, and each person wrote a valentine to some one in the room, putting the name of this person on it, but not his own. At the end of ten minutes the papers were collected, the best read, and guesses were made as to the writers. Some were very witty and created much merriment.

Following this came April Fool's Day; any little joke may be played on the audience, the name of the day being kept until the end of the joke. A funny thing is to get four people, who are known not to be singers, and announce them for a quartet. After much turning of the sheets of the music they each turn a page to the audience with one letter on each page, the four spelling "S-O-L-D." Needless to say they do not sing.

Then the chairman made a little speech thanking the people for coming to "Simpkinsville" to help celebrate the Fourth of July, telling how it had been a custom for many years to gather on the village green to listen to an oration by one of the men who had gone out from the little village and become famous. This year, however, it had

been decided to have some one in the town give the address, so after the singing of "America," "Judge Simpkins" would talk to them. One of the young men of your church might represent the "Judge" and say at this point some good words on civic righteousness. After the "Star-Spangled Banner" was sung, small boys with popcorn balls passed through the audience, the people were given a chance to visit a bit with their neighbors who had come to help celebrate the day, and the Fourth of July was over.

But Thanksgiving Day was the reason, per se, for this social, and the chairman made mention of some of the things for which they were thankful as a church. It would be a good plan to have each one write on an unsigned slip of paper something for which he is thankful. These slips may be collected in the basket with the offering, and afterward read aloud while the young ladies pass the refreshments which are in keeping with the day. A few selections suitable to the Thanksgiving time may easily be found and rendered—either songs, monologs, readings, or recitations. More visiting followed, after which the chairman announced that owing to the recent panic, local hard times, the building of the new church, and for other minor reasons, they were unable to celebrate Christmas this year, but hoped to be able to next year. And so the holidays were over.

Old Home Week

at_____Church

Thanksgiving Time
November 20–27, 19—

Most cordially we bid you come
To_____your former home,
We long once more your face to see
And hear your voice in merry glee,
And if you can't come send a letter,
We'll read it there, which is "next better,"
And will esteem it as a token
To show your interest unbroken.

An Attractive Postcard Invitation

CHAPTER VIII

"OLD HOME WEEK" IN THE CHURCH AT THANKSGIVING TIME

EX-GOVERNOR ROLLINS, of New Hampshire, to whom we owe the idea of "Old Home Week," says, in his account (given in the Rhode Island Souvenir Program) of the new festival which was inaugurated in his State, that the message, "Come home," traveled literally with the swiftness of the lightning, and the most enthusiastic believers in the proposed festival were amazed by the results as measured by its influence both upon the absent ones and upon those at home. So those who have

once experienced the joys of true fellowship in a church home, and who, perchance, by force of circumstances are obliged to live elsewhere, will welcome the call to "Come home"; for there are associations around the scenes of one's childhood training and the place where one entered into the fulness of a religious life that are most sacredly cherished. "Old Home Week" touches the heartstrings, for it plays on one of the strongest sentiments in human life.

Let it Last Over Two Sundays

A week of reunion and rejoicing is not too long and might last over two Sundays. It could be jubilantly ushered in by the ringing of the church bell at sunrise on Sunday morning. An invitation should be sent to all who have ever been members of the church, if it is possible to reach them. Even being remembered in this way may mean more than one would think.

The main service on the first Sunday morning should fittingly be an historical one, telling when the church was started, by whom, and presenting in person any of the early members who may be living. Any early deeds of the church property grants would be interesting to see. The early days of the Sunday-school should be described and recognition given to the teachers who were then active.

A Picture of the Church to Take Home

While all this should be brightly and interestingly told, it would be better to prepare a lasting souvenir which those who must go away again may take with them, and it would be advisable to have the picture of the church on a separate sheet, that it may be framed and kept before the eyes. In the booklet should be pictures of the church building as it has been enlarged from time to time, portraits of its different pastors, and lists of officers and workers; a list of all members would also be interesting.

Sing the Good Old Tunes

Many of the visitors will be elderly, and the good old tunes will make the service seem most homelike to them, but not necessarily the long-metre ones. A large chorus choir organized for the occasion will help to make the singing "go." A "rally" would be in order for the Sunday-school in the afternoon and a sacred concert and organ recital in the evening.

"At Home" Night

On "At Home" night the pastor and the officers of the church, with their wives, should receive the guests, and should lead the company under a triumphal arch, to one of the grand marching tunes of the church. This will break up all stiffness, and informal speeches made up largely of serious

and humorous reminiscences and the reading of the letters from those who would like to be present will be enjoyed. An opportunity to greet also as many of the former pastors as can be brought together would add to the pleasure of all assembled.

Neighborhood Night

A church building is a benefit to a community. This is attested by property values, and even those who do not enter its doors feel its influence. So "Neighborhood Night" would be quite in order and would also give an opportunity to invite all other local church organizations. This affords a chance for the church to express its purpose to stand for civic righteousness in the neighborhood, and to pledge its support to those in authority who are working with this end in view and who may be invited to speak along these lines.

A card of remembrance for this service might show a picture of the church with open doors silently inviting the families of the town to repeat their visit. On the card should be reasons why this open door should be entered: "If you were once a member"; "If you have children in the Sunday-school"; "If you have found the pastor a blessing when sorrow was in your home." It would be a good idea to give also the regular weekly services at the church.

Gathering Around the Family Board

The reunion would hardly be complete unless all the children who have come home should gather around the family board. This might be arranged for Thanksgiving evening if that seemed best. For this evening it would be pretty to make the room look as much like the woods as possible. This can be accomplished by the use of evergreens, if they are obtainable; if not, by using palms and ferns. A real rail fence and an old well will recall boyhood days. The table should be decorated with harvest products and autumn leaves. Novel place or menu cards for the occasion may be made by cutting from seedsmen's catalogues the colored pictures of vegetables and mounting them on plain white paper, on the reverse of which the name or menu may be written. Napkins with autumn decorations, on which has been printed with a rubber hand-stamp, "Old Home Week," will help to make the table attractive. The menu might be that of a harvest-home dinner in the country, or a reminder of bygone picnics.

A story of early days will be in order, and toasts that include "Our guests—may they come again," and "Our mothers—may they abide with us."

The Harvest Home supper might also be the occasion of remembering particularly the old folks in the community, giving especial honor to

those who have been members for twenty-five years or more.

Entertainment for Thanksgiving Night

If another form of entertainment is desired for Thanksgiving night, arrange a service of song called "The Harvest Home," picturing in recitation and song God's goodness through the different seasons of the year in floral beauty and harvest abundance; or if a more secular entertainment is cared for, it is not difficult to make up a program of harvest selections in songs, readings, humorous recitations, monologs, etc.

Children's Night

Friday would be a good night to give to the children; Saturday afternoon to athletic contests between guests and residents. For the children's night it would be fun for them to see what the grown-ups had to play with when they were small, and the admission for older persons might be something with which they played when they were children, with a story to go with it.

As the children's part in entertaining, it would be pretty to have them give "Ye Little Old Folks' Concert," or some one of the musical entertainments for children.

"Mothering Sunday"

It would scarcely be fitting that the week should close without a more serious significance being

placed upon the gathering, and the second Sunday might be given over to an invitation to enter the way that leads unto life. The special designation of this day might be "Mothering Sunday." Among the many quaint and charming customs which linger here and there in various parts of rural England is that of celebrating this day. For many generations it has been the habit of young people who have left the parent roof-tree and have set up homes of their own, or have sought their fortunes in the wide world, to look forward to the fourth Sunday in Lent—mid-Lent Sunday—as the time for a visit to father and mother, which nothing avoidable should prevent.

Lasting Memorials

It would be a happy thought for the guests to leave in some form a lasting memorial of their visit—a window, a baptismal font, or something in permanent form which could be suitably inscribed. As a result of the New Hampshire celebration the spot upon which the first religious service was held in the present State capital has been marked with a granite shaft, testifying to the fact that an intelligent religious faith has been the foundation of the State's prosperity.

CHAPTER IX

HOW TO ENTERTAIN A SUNDAY-SCHOOL CLASS—ESPECIALLY IN NOVEMBER

ALMOST all of you who are teachers in a Sunday-school want to entertain your classes during the year, and I know it bothers you sometimes to know just how to do it. Then, too, the organized young women's classes like to entertain their friends, so that they may become interested in the work of the class. Some of you do it every month, and I know you want suggestions. Suppose we begin at the very beginning—the A, B, C of it, so to speak. Did you ever try entertaining the class with that kind of an evening?

Have the alphabet printed times galore on cardboard. Then cut between the letters. When cut, the cards should be three-fourths of an inch square, and the letters almost large enough to cover the pieces.

How to Manage the Letter Game

Mix the letters all up before the guests arrive; have a number of small tables ready and seat four at a table. Put a stack of the letters in the center. Tell your guests what they are to spell with the

letters. We will say "authors" first. At the tap of a bell all begin to work silently and quickly to select letters from the pile to spell the name of the first author which comes to their minds, while you quietly pass around to see that the names are being spelled correctly. At the end of five minutes the bell taps and all work ceases; the two who have the greatest number of authors' names on the table progress, and all get ready for the next, which may be the names of birds, flowers, cities, rivers, or anything you may see fit to give the company. The couples should change partners each time they progress. A tiny bottle of tomato sauce with a ribbon around the neck and "Catch up" for the label makes a good favor for the two who are always behindhand.

Why the Letter Game is Good

Some advantages of this game are: it requires little preparation after the letters are made; any number of people may play; it can last a long or short time, according to the enjoyment of the guests; it can be played over and over again, for the more one plays it the more skilful one becomes and hence the more one enjoys it; and the subjects that may be chosen are endless. It also teaches one to think quickly and work with nimble fingers.

Paper alphabets from four to ten inches in length may be bought very inexpensively from

Sunday-school supply houses, and may be used to decorate your room. Put A, B, C on one wall, X, Y, Z on another, and a greeting, "How do you do?" or "Glad to see you," over the door. If your class has a motto you could display it in this way.

Forming Word Groups

As the guests arrive, hang around each one's neck a large-sized card bearing the initial of his or her last name. As a starter to break formality tell them that the letters are to spell themselves into words. This way: If Mr. N. and Miss O. are standing together each one is privileged to write the word "No" on the card; then, if Mr. T. comes along, all three may write "Not" on the cards. Then the three of them may tour the room in search of other letters to build up their lists. It is a good plan to write the full name at the top of the card when it is given out, so that, if some in the company are unknown to others, when they meet in spelling the words the written names may serve as introductions. The one who has the least number of words may be given an A, B, C book.

Groups by Subjects

Another way to do this is to give out cards marked, say, "S—Society 3—12 members." In explaining the idea to your guests you say face-

tiously that perhaps each one belongs to a certain class of people or social organization or new movement, and it will be well for all interested in that one thing to stand together. All having Number Three cards find each other and discover they are all "Suffragettes" or "Aeronauts," or that they belong to the "Four Hundred" or the "Submerged Tenth." This will give occasion for quite a little fun among those who find themselves classified not according to their sentiments.

If you play this game just before you have refreshments, as it is November, you might decorate your table with harvest products and give out the names of vegetables for the different groups. Some will exclaim, "Oh, we're some pumpkins"; others will be "onion tops"; others, "We are cabbage-heads"; to which some will doubtless reply that they could have told them that before. Then, when you go out to supper, serve, among other things, a combination vegetable salad.

Other Good Ways to Entertain

IF you don't want to try the alphabetical evening, here is a good way to get people acquainted. Give to the young women rebuses of the young men's names—pictures representing them—and the young women's names to the

young men. For instance, these are Mr. Smith and Mr. Bolles in the illustration. They hunt their partners according to the pictures they hold.

An Autumn Leaf Party

Here is a form of entertainment which is educational as well. The invitation, with apologies to the composer, might read:

"Dame Nature gave a party,
The leaves by hundreds came";
And on our invitation
You're invited to the same.

Every one is given the facsimile of a leaf cut from white paper veined in ink. They try, of course, to decide what leaf it is and consult the wisdom of their companions, who are equally ig-

norant. Finally, when all have enjoyed seeing how much they don't know, colored pictures of trees, obtainable in sets with a single leaf illustrated in detail, are pinned about the walls. One company of young people who tried this plan was a Canadian one, and adjourned with "The Maple Leaf Forever." Other forms of amusement may be the bird and flower guessing games, "hidden tree" stories, and the game of "What shall the harvest be?"

A Farmer's Festival

November is a good month in which to invite your class to "A Farmer's Festival in Cornstalk Lane." For appropriate decorations use cornstalks and harvest products. Boards laid across boxes will serve for the extra seats you will need for your guests. As each guest arrives he is given a potato or carrot, which he keeps until later in the evening, when the young people are asked to form in two lines, the potatoes in one line, the carrots in the other. Then will come the fun of an old-fashioned country spelling bee, but the words are short and have to be spelled backward, which isn't so easy.

WORDS FOR THE "DOUBLE-BACK-ACTION SPELLING CONTEST"

Bad	Eve	Mar	Pot	Snap
Ban	Ewe	Mid	Pit	Spin
Bard	Eye	Nib	Pool	Sag
But	Eel	Now	Rail	Ten
Dad	Gab	Nuts	Raw	Ton
Dam	Knab	Pan	Star	Tun
Don	May	Pin	Saw	Tub
Door	Mart	Part	Stop	Tar
Dray	Moor	Pat	Straw	Ward

The words should be spelled backward promptly and pronounced immediately after the last letter is uttered.

If you cannot get enough pictures to make up invitations like the one here shown, butcher's brown paper may be torn into squares and the invitations written thereon.

Games to Play

A game for the evening is "straw-stacking," which is played like jackstraws, the materials being lemonade straws cut into two-inch lengths, and a wire hairpin with which to pick them out of the pile in the center of the table.

An apple-bowling contest is very amusing.

The apples are placed four in a row, from side to side. Each of the contestants is given two trials with a tennis ball at a distance of about eight feet. If he strikes an apple it is his.

As all this has been rather strenuous, we will offer the "farmers" a little light refreshments in the form of "nuts to crack."

Why is condensed milk like a stout girl who milks the cows? Because it is milk made thick.

What author tells us what to do with a hen and chickens? Cooper.

What apple proves it is best in a race to have no hair on one's head? The Baldwin.

Why do we know that bees are very careful of their personal appearance? They use the comb so much.

In what plant should poultrymen invest? Eggplant.

How many peas in a pint? One.

For this party you could use also, if you like, the vegetable game described in the A, B, C party.

What to Have to Eat

A way to serve refreshments suitable for such an evening's entertainment is to distribute wooden plates numbered in duplicate, so that partners may be obtained. The guests are then seated on the boards or on the floor, and coffee in tin cups, and doughnuts and taffy apples may be served. Those who went to the country schools will remember how good was the "apple on a stick."

On the "Seeing Frolictown" Automobile

"ON a Monday night, the first in November,
We wish you all to be sure and remember
That the Philatheas to you will tender
A trip around the town.
The excursion is free;
If you come out that night
We are sure you'll agree
You've been treated all right.
So pack up your grip
And with us take the trip!
By the Funville and Featherbrain Route."

This entertainment is a good way to combine many of the favorite games well known but always amusing. It is well to use a different room for each "building"

Calling on the Famous

The first visit is to the Hall of Fame. In this are to be shown photographs of the men and women of the church and of the young people's society, with noted names under each that are appropriate—in a way. For instance, the soprano of the choir may be designated as Jenny Lind. One especially noted for exactness may be styled George Washington.

Stopping to Get "Initiated"

In the Masonic Temple some rites of initiation will be performed. This is the old game of pass-

ing things from hand to hand under a sheet. The room is dark in this case, and a piece of ice dropped into the hand under the name of a "hot coal" has an astonishing effect on one's mind.

At the Museum and Conservatory

From this room one goes to the Museum where old relics may be shown, and from this to the Art Gallery where the "titles" read like the catalogue of an Art Gallery, but are a stretch of the imagination when it comes to looking at the "pictures," as "Out for the night"—a blown-out candle.

When you reach the Conservatory of Music one of the musical love stories is given, or the first few bars of a familiar song for the visitors to recall what it is.

Other familiar games may be utilized in this way with new names given them for the occasion.

The sightseeing tour comes to an end in the Palm Garden, where refreshments are served.

CHAPTER X

SOCIALS THAT ARE GOOD THE YEAR ROUND

REALLY I dislike to say "birthday" social, for everybody knows that the idea itself is too old to celebrate birthdays any more, but you can always get a new form for it. You know it appeals so strongly to everybody because there is a personal interest in it for each one, and that is what makes a successful social; it is like the story of the man who said they always had a good meeting when he took part.

A New Form of "Birthday" Party Invitation

First, for the invitation, you know it has been customary to send out a little bag and ask for as many pennies as the guest is years old.

A new way is to send out postcard invitations and ask them to place in the bag at the door a sufficient number of pennies to correspond with the date of the month on which their birthday falls. This is nicer, because it takes away any embarrassment: One born on the first of the month puts in one penny; if on the thirty-first, thirty-one pennies are put in.

Groups Mean Sociability

After all seem well acquainted, and lively music keeps the company from getting too quiet, twelve young men appear and station themselves at as many different points in the room, each one holding aloft the emblem of a month; for instance, April has an open umbrella. The company gather about their respective leaders according to the month in which they were born, and ten minutes is allowed for conversation and for each group to call to mind some important event occurring in their month. Of course, the leaders are posted and are prepared to make particular mention of some special events. As each group is called history and biography are largely drawn from, and bits of local and personal history are amusingly included. Souvenirs are provided, and as the leader will have received the names of all his group from the slips on which the birth month is written as they come in, he will be able to make his group a social one by introducing each one to the others present.

Tables to Represent the Months

Another idea for collecting the pennies is to have a table dressed to represent each month, and have a slot somewhere among the decorations, with a box underneath, through which the pennies, or the little bags, if you should decide to use them, may be dropped.

The January table could represent a winter scene; the pennies to be dropped into a cardboard sled.

February could be a heart-decorated table.

March, a windmill, with a slot in the top of the mill.

April, a large Japanese umbrella. The little bags might be attached to the ends of the ribs.

May, a Maypole with a basket on top into which the pennies may be dropped.

June, a huge bunch of red roses. The bags to be dropped into the jardinière containing them.

July, a huge fire cracker made of red paper, the bags to be dropped into the top of it. It should stand at least three feet high.

August, a sand pile, in which the bags may be buried.

September, a schoolhouse of imitation brick paper; pennies to be dropped down the chimney.

October, an old witch for Hallowe'en; pennies to be dropped into her pocket.

November, a large pumpkin, either real or made of yellow paper.

December, a Santa Claus; pennies to be dropped into his bag.

Another Group Idea

Another arrangement is to request all who celebrate their birthdays in January to proceed to-

gether to the refreshment room. Here they are served with cake and coffee, and each one receives a souvenir in the shape of a tiny white silk bag, prettily tied, and stamped with the words "Good Resolutions."

The February people follow, and partake of refreshments together, receiving small pictures of Washington. Each month follows in order—sometimes two together when the number of birthdays is small, each person receiving an appropriate souvenir. The August people are decked with large cloth sunflowers, and September's token is a small ear of corn tied with ribbon.

Wishes in Rhyme

In addition to the souvenirs, fasten on each person a card bearing a rhyme appropriate to the birthday month, such as:

> "May your life be all in tune
> With the leafy month of June."

The separating of the months brings together people who seldom have much to do with one another; while the souvenirs and rhymes effectually banish all formality.

Birth month fortunes and birth stones and their meanings would add interest.

Which of These Will You Try First?

"The grass withereth, the flower fadeth;
But the word of our God shall stand forever."

MANY of the Brotherhoods, Social and Ushers' Unions give an annual banquet. For such an occasion a souvenir card that will be worth keeping to look at is like that shown in the little illustration in the corner. The cards are hand made. The picture is that of the prophet Isaiah, and for this purpose may be used the pictures of the prophets by Sargent, either singly or in groups, which may be purchased two for one cent. The type-written quotation is the prophecy at the head of this paragraph, and each similar quotation should be from the prophet or one of the prophets portrayed. The announcement of the event being celebrated is placed at the bottom of the card. On a corresponding card, backing this one, is the hymn, "Blest be the Tie that Binds," or one might be selected for use as a grace. The menu may be written on a separate slip of paper and tied in by the ribbons that unite the cards. The colors of the society may be reproduced in card and ribbons.

An Almanac Banquet

In lighter vein is an Almanac Banquet, with twelve tables decorated for the twelve months of the year. The place-cards might be scrolls. As unrolled they would read: "Resolved, That we're glad we're here." Following this is a division of the roll into three columns of twelve sections each: in the first, a typical pen-and-ink drawing for each month; in the second, the viand to be served peculiar to that month; in the third, twelve program numbers.

"Breaking the Ice"

The most awkward part of a church social is the hour when the guests are arriving, before the opportune moment comes to put into operation the plans which have been laid for the evening's entertainment. It is the time when those who are shy or unacquainted will slip off into corners whence they cannot be drawn out, despite the efforts of the most cordial of social committees, and the only way out of the difficulty seems to be to get all the people out of their seats and moving around. With this in view it is well to marshal all present into a "circle march"; the women forming the inner circle, the men the outer. The pianist plays some simple march and all march around. Suddenly the music stops and each man steps forward and marches to the re-

sumed music with the lady ahead of him. After about five minutes of marching the music ceases and every one will be found provided with a partner for conversation.

Question Contest

It will be a good plan to have ready now a Question Contest. For this contest small slips are prepared beforehand, each one containing a question and its answer. There should be about ten times as many slips as the number of guests expected. The questions may be of every kind imaginable — literary, historical, geographical, mathematical, biographical, with a large mixture of conundrums and a few allusions of local interest. As each person arrives he is furnished with eight of the slips and also a copy of these directions:

Go to some person present and ask him one of your questions. If he can answer the question he gets the slip; if he cannot answer you, keep the slip, but tell him the answer if he wishes to know it.

Ask each person two questions.

After you have asked the two questions, this person must in turn ask you two of his questions, so that you may have a chance to get some of his slips.

Do not ask the same question again until you have used all that you hold.

Do not ask questions of the same person again until you have asked every one else present.

If you should lose all your slips, you may obtain more from the distributer.

If it is not convenient to have a set of the rules for each person, copies may be posted in places where they can be consulted easily. Oral directions are likely to be forgotten. The game may be stopped at any time.

A Fine Game to Make People Converse

Another interesting game is a Character Hunt. Make a list of famous people, a few more in number than the guests expected. Give each character a number. Select six well-known facts about each character, no one of which will be likely to reveal the name of the person, but which taken all together will readily disclose his identity. Write the six facts on six slips—one on each slip—numbering each with the number on your list opposite the character chosen. Do this with all the names on the list. Then mix the slips together thoroughly and give each guest six, selecting them at random. Give him also a little card of directions which reads like this:

> No. 12. Exchange your slips with other people for those numbered 12 until you have six of this number. Then from the facts on the slips guess the name of the famous character.

There will, of course, be different numbers on each of these cards. The slips belonging to the above card might read as follows:

12. Born in Wales.
12. Brought up in a poorhouse.
12. Lived in New Orleans.
12. Served in the Confederate Army.
12. African explorer.
12. Member of the English Parliament.

The answer is Henry M. Stanley. A person might have to go to every one in the room before he found all of his six slips, but this is exactly what you want him to do.

Refreshments in Edible Dishes

An Ushers' Union gave an exhibition of how men could keep from washing dishes at their socials by serving ice cream in French cake-baskets set upon white paper doilies on small wooden plates. The baskets are edible, brown and sweet, somewhat like the ice-cream cones the children love. The guests were requested to "please eat the dishes."

When Building a New Church Use This

This social is suitable for a congregation building a new church. A congregation had just accepted its building plans, and to be in keeping with the times gave a "Church Erection Social." After the guests had all arrived it was announced that the time had now come to build the church,

but first material, tools, etc., must be secured. They pinned on the back of each one present the name of some material or mechanic's tool, or part of the church building. Then began the quizzing to find out what each one represented. This created much sociability. After each one had guessed his part of the building or work the host then paired all off, saying: "Will the hammer escort the nails to the dining-room? The mallet, the chisel? the cornerstone, the tower? the window-sash, the glass? the study, the organ loft?"—and so on. This caused more fun in hunting the partners. The merriment will increase if in attaching the names they have been given with some idea of their appropriateness; for instance, on a very tall man, the "tower"; on a man who can always be depended upon (there is always one in a church), the "cornerstone."

The church plans were laid out for inspection in one of the rooms, and the free-will offering went to the Building Fund.

A New Way to Collect Mite Society Dues

A Mite Society that had long discussed the question of raising money departed from its usual custom and held weekly meetings at the homes of its members; any one interested in the church work was eligible to membership. It was the duty of the one receiving to plan how the even-

ing should be spent. The serving of refreshments was optional. The hostesses vied with each other in planning some new form of entertainment at small expense. One gave a musicale; another planned an evening of old-fashioned games, with refreshments of buttered popcorn and apples; a third enlisted the services of a friend who had traveled abroad and was willing to give a lecture in her parlor; and so on. The members were kept in expectancy from week to week. The new feature was the abolition of regular dues and the passing of a mite-box at the close of each weekly entertainment.

Plucking the "Wallflowers"

"What can we do to draw into the evening's plan of entertainment those bashful 'wallflowers'?" The question was asked by the secretary of the social committee, and after being debated, it was decided to hold a "Sociable Social"—a three-sided affair for three reasons:

To get better acquainted.
To enjoy yourself.
To help others enjoy themselves.

The program opened at three minutes after eight with three musical numbers; then a dialogue of three persons and a vocal trio.

"Now," explained the chairman, "if we are

going to hold a sociable social all must resolve to be sociable. You will notice that there are nine spaces on the cards you hold. We have selected nine topics of conversation, each to occupy three minutes, allowing first three minutes for you to find the two other persons who will form your group of three during each of these nine conversations."

When, after a lively scramble, each succeeded in filling his card with eighteen different names, the first topic was announced. Here are a few suggestions. The subjects should always be up to date:

1. My greatest pleasure.
2. Books I have enjoyed.
3. Funny stories.
4. Adventures.
5. The kind of book I should like to write.
6. School days.
7. The trip I should like to take.
8. Refreshments (instead of conversation).
9. My ambition: What I should like to be.

After all have been served with refreshments the last topic, "My ambition," gives a fine opportunity, after the buzz of animated conversation has subsided, for the pastor to give a three-minute talk to the young people about deciding on and aiming for the best in life.

For the "Coldest and Stiffest Church in the City"

A RECTOR who had served his parish for three years called a meeting of the members to say to them that he had heard for the last time that he was rector of the coldest and stiffest and most fashionable church in the city; if they couldn't make it possible to have more fitting adjectives apply to a church there was something wrong with the minister, the people, or both, and unless conditions changed in one year he would resign.

They decided the fault was not his. The trouble lay in the social side of the church. Trouble or gladness would come to a family, and no one but the rector knew anything about it. They knew this was not right. A social committee of three members was appointed. They knew that most of the women gladly gave up an afternoon a week to their clubs; so they decided to look on the church as another form of club, but to ask only for an afternoon every two weeks.

Arranging a Calling List

Then began the calling. They made out lists of names and addresses; sent them to the women members, and asked that these people be called upon within a month and the list returned stating whether the people were at home or not. The

end of the first month brought very few returns. The committee then went for the lists and found some of the appointed visitors humiliated at not having done their duty. A new list was sent to these same people the next month. This time there were more returns. This was kept up until every family had had an opportunity to call on and receive a call from every other family.

Next, members were asked to give little social affairs, planning them as if for their own friends, the committee sending out the invitations and paying the expenses. These were given for the older people, the young married people, the unmarried people, the children and the little ones, the latter having their mothers bring them.

An "At Home" at the Rectory

The rector was "At Home" every Wednesday evening, inviting the members in much the same order, holding a general reception once in three months. Everything was very informal but very social, and light refreshments were served.

A parish paper was sent later to the homes every Saturday. The members were informed of any deaths, long illnesses, baptisms, marriages, vacations, new accessions to the parish, and so on.

After two years the rector looked ten years younger, and the parish was a most friendly one, all working for the best good of all the people.

Just a Jolly Good Time

"Come to the parsonage at half-past eight,
Now please do come early and stay till late;
We know you will have a jolly good time,
And we ask only for you a bright new dime."

AND this paragraph is just about that—"a jolly good time." It is a good thing to have such an evening once in a while—just pure fun that doesn't pretend to do anything else but try to make you laugh. Here are some suggestions which several of my friends have told me about.

Place placards about the room on which you have such sentiments as "A little nonsense now and then," "All work and no play," "A laugh is worth a hundred groans," etc. "Laugh and grow fat" is a good wording for the poster at the door, showing a laughing boy.

A Story-telling Contest

Arrange tables and chairs, allowing from four to eight chairs at a table, according to the number of guests present. Number the tables with large numbers cut from bright-colored paper, and glued to a pink Bristol-board cover cut to fit the top of the table. Jokes, clipped from newspapers and magazines, may also be pasted fast to the card-

board to remind the guests of other stories they have heard. Also place on each table pencils and slips of paper to be used in voting later.

Each guest now tells his story to his group, and they decide which was the funniest story. The successful story-teller at each table tells his story to the entire audience, and three judges decide as to the merits of these stories.

The program should have for its first number a medley of jolly airs, followed by a funny song and humorous readings.

An Amusing Race

A handkerchief-hanging race will be amusing. Arrange two clothes-lines across the room. Two persons are chosen to start the race and each one is given twelve handkerchiefs and a basket of clothes-pins, and each is assigned a line. At a signal they start to hang up the handkerchiefs. The winner must race again with some one else. Then the final winner is awarded a prize.

Ordering Refreshments by Numerals

The refreshments should be unusual; they might take the form of a Numeral Luncheon, for the latter selecting any three of six numbers. Only the committee knows that Number five is a glass of water, Number 2 a toothpick, and Number 6 an olive. If these three are selected, they wouldn't be very substantial refreshments, but added to

1, 4, and 3, sandwiches, cake, and coffee, will be found quite sufficient.

A "Marked Down" Social

THE problems frequently involved in preparing a social for a city church are the creation of such interest in the affair as will attract people, the supplying of some entertaining novelty for the evening, and an arrangement effective for making all persons, and especially strangers, generally acquainted, so that there may be no wallflowers or cliques. The "Marked Down" Social incorporates these desirable features to a large extent by its appropriation of a few ideas from the "marked down" sales which merchants use to attract buyers. The invitations are worded as follows:

The ladies of ——— Church cordially invite you to "The *Marked Down* Social," to be held in the church parlors on the evening of ———, at eight o'clock.

Admission will be granted only to those who come with their names *marked down* on a card affixed to coat or dress. All members of the church are especially requested to be present, that a check may be *marked down* opposite each name at the roll-call of members.

Some novel features have been planned to make this church social of more interest than the usual "marked down" sale. If you cannot guess what is in store for you at the social, come and do your guessing there.

Kindly *mark down* on your calendar the date, and remember a cordial welcome awaits you. Bring your pencil with you.

Using Price Tags for Partners

At the door, in separate boxes for the ladies and gentlemen, have price tags with pink string loops attached, to be slipped into the buttonhole or pinned on each comer. On the tags have the price marked in black ink crossed off, and a "marked down" price put on in red ink; by means of these prices partners may be found for a five-minute conversation.

Rules to Make the Social "Go"

A brief, bright, introductory address should be made by the one presiding, and the rules for the evening given as follows:

1. See that some one else has a good time; then you will be sure to enjoy yourself.

2. Find your first partner by the price in black ink on your tag.

3. Change partners when the signal is given, and find your second partner by a corresponding "marked-down" price in red ink.

Packages of Mystery

Place some mysterious-looking packages on a table in the room and ask those present to guess what the contents are. Here are some suggestions for the preparation of mysterious packages:

A most useful article, although it is always backward in showing the result of its work. (A blotter.)

Something that may travel all over the country for two cents. (Postage stamp.)

It is usually ahead of time, and although often behindhand is yet always relied upon. (A calendar.)

Extracts from many pens. (A penwiper.)

It has a snippy disposition. (Pair of scissors.)

A study in oil. (Box of sardines.)

An article which ought to throw light on any subject. (A match).

The guesses on the mysterious packages should be "marked down" by each person and handed to the one in charge of the table who has the key, and who at the close of the evening awards the contents of the packages to the best guessers.

Other simple guessing contests may be arranged, in which the company will be glad to try their wits and "mark down" the results.

More Suggestions That Will Bear Working Out

DID you ever try a "Suggestion Social" in your young people's society? The members put on their thinking caps and write down some suggestions for increasing the membership, or which they think it would be well to carry out in forwarding the work. The folded unsigned slips are dropped into a basket, selected at random, read and discussed.

A New Kind of Basket Ball

To a church society desiring to provide a rag carpet for the church kitchen the following plan may be suggested:

A company of young ladies engaged in church work sent by messenger to each of their young men friends an invitation to share with them an evening of toil to further a project they had in mind. They promised to have on hand narrow, woolen strips of varied hues sewed into lengths like those their grandmothers prepared when they wove gay carpets to cover their floors. The young men were asked to join in the task of rolling the strips into balls weighing a pound or more, for which they would be rewarded with music, song, and plentiful refreshment. But to help the young men train for their part of the work the young ladies sent with every invitation a strip of carpet-rags two yards long, and advised each young man to try wrapping it into a ball around a nickel or some larger coin, and then bring the ball with him and toss it into a basket which would hang overhead by the door. When the balls were unrolled, and the coins which they contained counted, it was found that there was sufficient money to pay for the weaving of the carpet.

This plan for providing a carpet, or rugs, could be used also by home missionary societies.

If You are Musical You Will Like This

NOW no social will suit every one, so here is one that the musically inclined will like. We will call it "Our Musical Make-up." The old game of guessing the name of the musician that is pinned on one's back is a good one with which to start, and then after a piano solo the musical tests come.

Musical Eyes

Each person receives a paper containing the first few bars of music of ten popular songs (treble clef only), and under each selection must be written its name or the opening words.

Musical Brain

Each of the following questions is to be answered by a musical term:

1. Part of feet of quadrupeds. (Pause.)
2. What a General has. (Staff.)
3. Reflection on character. (Slur.)
4. Part of a flower. (Stem.)
5. Measure used by woodmen. (Chord.)
6. Carpenter's tool. (Brace.)
7. What a worm will do when touched. (Turn.)
8. All around us. (Air.)
9. When two competitors are even. (Tie.)
10. Can be found on a domino. (Dot.)
11. A numerical quantity. (Score.)
12. What makes a check valid. (Signature.)

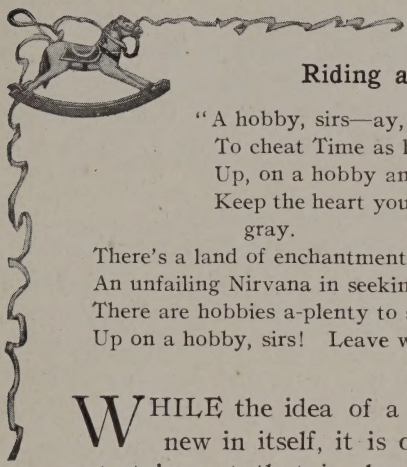
13. A kind of residence. (Flat.)
14. Three of a kind. (Triplets.)
15. To annul. (Cancel.)
16. What one should do when weary. (Rest.)
17. Once again. (Repeat.)
18. An association of lawyers. (Bar.)
19. What betrays nationality. (Accent.)
20. What knights-of-the-yard-stick do. (Measure.)
21. Important ingredient in dye. (Color.)
22. No respecter of persons. (Time.)
23. What nightingales do. (Trill.)
24. A vegetable. (Beat.)
25. Seen in account books. (Notes.)
26. Pedestal of statue. (Base.)
27. Trickster. (Sharp.)
28. Strengthening medicine. (Tonic.)
29. What unaffected people are. (Natural.)

Musical Memory

A good performer previously prepares a list of say twenty well-known pieces of music, and plays on the piano six or eight bars of each in quick succession. While he is playing each person writes down the names of the selections.

Musical Ears

Some one in an adjoining room plays successively on ten different musical instruments: cornet, violin, jews'-harp, mouth-organ, etc., the company writing down the names.



Riding a Hobby

"A hobby, sirs—ay, there's the thing
To cheat Time as he spreads his wings.
Up, on a hobby and away!
Keep the heart young though the poll grows gray.
There's a land of enchantment in treetops and brooks.
An unfailing Nirvana in seeking rare books.
There are hobbies a-plenty to suit every mind,
Up on a hobby, sirs! Leave worry behind."

WHILE the idea of a Hobby Party is not new in itself, it is one of those forms of entertainment that is always good because you can get new people interested and there will be something different to talk about each time. This is the way a Wisconsin society worked it out.

"In evolving the plan to exploit the fads of well-known townsfolk we invented the name of the Hobby-horse Show.

"Miss Adeline, our first quarry, responded readily with a promise to tell of her struggle in establishing a day nursery; 'Old Doc Beach' agreed to talk of his magic in his gardening; Miss Dean consented to hold forth on the pure-food question, while the new druggist said that he would explain his collection of lichens. A camera fiend, an auto-

mobilist, an inveterate fisherman, and other hobby folk fell in with the spirit of the thing. As posters we had a wonderfully caricatured horse cut from Bristol-board, and the tickets in bold lettering read, 'Have you a hobby? Enter it in the Horse Show.'"

Shadow Pictures are Always Enjoyed

This society preceded each feature with a shadowgraph caricature. For instance, they had a wooden horse, borrowed from a harness establishment, pull across the stage a representation of the home of the old lady who had so many children they seemed to be "getting on her nerves," just before the story was told of the day nursery. But the idea can be carried out in more simple fashion; for instance, the taking of a picture by the camera fiend, a fisherman waiting for a bite, etc.

Games That Children Will Enjoy

A SIMPLE game that children will enjoy at a sociable may be arranged by placing twelve strawberry boxes in the form of a hollow square, with a tin cup in the center. On the bottom of four of the boxes place the figure five; ten on two more; fifteen on two others, leaving the remaining four blank. The tin cup counts twenty-five. The children take sides and a set of checkers is given

to them, the white to one side, the black to the other. The children stand several feet from the boxes and take turns in pitching their checkers for the center cup. If they fail to throw them into the cup each checker counts what is marked on the box into which it falls.

This Isn't Easy, But It's Fun

This amusing game of the senses may be played by any number of children. Some one begins by mentioning something he has seen, but he must be careful, for this last word must furnish him with a rhyme for all the game. When each player has made such a statement the first one again tells what he saw, then what he heard, and so on around, adding what he tasted, smelt, and felt. For instance, one said:

"I saw a man across the way."

Another said:

"I saw a lady fall down in the street."

On the second round the first one said:

"I saw a man across the way.
I heard a girl the organ play."

The second said:

"I saw a lady fall down in the street.
I heard a boy his lesson repeat."

After going the rounds five times the first completed rhyme would be:

"I saw a man across the way.
I heard a girl the organ play.
I tasted shad from Delaware Bay.
I smelt the flowers that bloom in May.
I felt for eggs down in the hay."

The verses should not be written, as the interest is greatly increased by the effort to remember one's own rhymes.

But Here is a Surprise at the Last!

AFTER all, these socials require more or less exertion on the part of the guests, and I must tell you about the Surprise Social.

Another young people's society, a Canadian one, decided to hold a social, and a committee of four was appointed to make arrangements. The members wanted something interesting and entertaining, but just what that would be puzzled them. They had had musical evenings, floral evenings, literary evenings, and many more of that sort, and thought they must always have something of an intellectual nature, for the majority of the young people were students.

Wanted—A Change

One of the girls was telling her brother about it and asking what he thought of an evening

with the poets, sketching an outline of what she had thought would be an interesting evening.

"For goodness' sake," he said, "can't you give us a change? We boys are sick and tired of going out for a good time, and, first thing, having a paper thrust in our hands and told to study out some

problem or other. We get enough of that all day, and when we go out for an evening we want a rest and a good time."

Here was a new idea. They had never thought that too many evenings of that sort might be tiresome. At last they agreed to try a Surprise Social. The idea was original. They set to work to think of surprises that would be pleasing. In the first place, all their plans were to be secret. They were to have it at the home of one of their members.

No Papers or Pencils—Just Surprises

They wrote to a former pastor, one of the dearest of old men, and told him they wanted him to come and help them give the people a surprise. He gladly consented to be with them that evening, and brought with him his daughter, a very talented singer (a surprise to the committee), and she gave several numbers on the program.

The rest of the program had been arranged without the consent of those on it. No one knew he had to assist until his name was read out, and many were the surprised faces that evening. The committee had chosen the selections and provided the music as well where it was needed. Others were asked to give readings, instrumental music, etc., at most unexpected times.

One young lady was asked to recite "Mary had a little lamb." Another surprise was that all entered heartily into the evening's enjoyment and did what they were asked to do.

They Played Some of the Old Games and Tricks

Later they played some of the jolliest games and tricks. Six young men were told to sit in a row and a cracker was given to each one. At a signal, all started together to eat the cracker, and the one who had his finished and could whistle a tune first was awarded a huge tin whistle.

Three young men were sent to one end of the drawing-room and three young women to the opposite end, and the center of the room cleared. Each was blindfolded and then told to go and shake hands with the one opposite. To see the hands waving and clawing the air, as the players tried to find each other, was very funny. The partners who shook hands first were given what looked to be a nicely bound book, but, upon closer inspection, was found to be a pasteboard box, resembling a book, filled with bonbons.

A Surprise in Refreshments

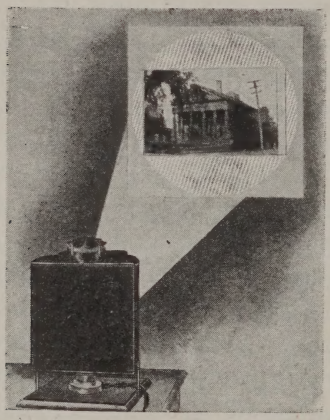
In the dining-room they had decorated the walls with boughs of evergreen, and placed potted palms and ferns about until it looked like a miniature forest. They served ice cream, cake, and orangeade during the evening. Oranges were cut in two and the pulp taken out carefully, so that the rind was not broken. In one half they served ice cream and covered it with the other half—another surprise. The orangeade was made of the pulp.

Altogether, it was a delightful evening. Every one was wondering what would come next. There was no admission charged at the door, in this case another surprise! But those who got it up wanted a free-will offering, so they passed a collection-plate around and received the biggest surprise of the evening.

CHAPTER XI

ENTERTAINING WITH THE UBIQUITOUS POSTCARD

IN our social church work it is most practical to use those things which are easily obtained, so I think these postcard ideas will prove helpful.



I received a card recently from a missionary in Nazareth, Palestine, showing the town and having in one corner a little picture of the Boy Christ in the carpenter-shop. I wonder if there is any place named on the map of the world where you cannot buy postcards! But they are entertaining and educative, and the young people's societies will do well to use them.

Preparing in Summer for a Fall Social

Before you go away next summer remind the members of your Sunday-school class of this idea sent by a Kentucky friend:

"One of the ways our Bible-class passed an enjoyable and instructive evening during the winter was to have a postcard social. During the past summer, as every member went on her vacation, she sent to the other members a card descriptive in some way of the place she was visiting. Then when winter came we met at the home of one of our members and each girl brought her postcards. There we gathered around the large dining-room table and each one gave a five-minute talk on the cards she had sent out, as they were passed to her. After we finished with the postcards the table was spread with light refreshments.

Education by Postcard

In announcing an "Entertaining Course in History" your invitations—which, of course, should be on postcards—might suggest that the intention is to offer a "Free Education by Postcard," which—in this progressive age when everything is specialized, compressed, and condensed—would seem to be getting even one ahead of "education by correspondence."

Heretofore it has been impracticable to make any use of postcards for entertainment purposes on a large scale because of the inconvenience of displaying them to a large number of persons at one time. But the invention of a machine which reflects postcards and other illustrations on a

screen in colors—the picture being about three feet long—opens up this mine of interesting material and makes possible the form of entertainment described. The idea is susceptible of infinite variation, and, though "lecture courses" are taken as the basis of this entertainment, other names may be given to similar entertainments and the scheme varied in detail almost without limit, postcards and the postcard reflecting machine being the only requirements. The machines are not out of the financial reach of even small societies.

Members will be Glad to Contribute Cards

The first step in preparing for this entertainment is to obtain a large number of postcards from church members and their friends. Usually the cards, having been received by mail, will contain the names and addresses of the owners, but should any lack this means of identification, those who gather them should mark such cards to assure proper distribution after the entertainment.

After the committee in charge has gathered all

the postcards illustrating historic buildings which may be brought together from the collections of friends, the cards are sorted into groups, each group representing one class of buildings. The next step is to secure one person for each group who will be competent to describe entertainingly the buildings themselves and the historic facts connected with each. Amusing anecdotes relating to the buildings, or to events associated with the buildings, will, of course, add much to the interest of the "lectures."

Pictures of Interesting Relics

To give a general idea of the scope and nature of the lectures, the illustration shown at the head of the chapter is of an historic building—the screen picturing "Pilgrim Hall," in famous Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Showing a building of this kind suggests that interior illustrations, as well as exterior, may be shown. In the case of Pilgrim Hall, for example, one can obtain postcards illustrating a number of the most interesting relics exhibited there, such as the cradle of Peregrine White, Governor Carver's chair, etc. Many historic museums have postcards on sale for revenue.

There is practically no limit to the variety of subjects for such lectures. Besides historic buildings in general, several classes of historic buildings

may be treated separately. Postcards illustrating homes of poets or writers, famous churches, etc., will prove of interest if properly presented.

SUGGESTED SUBJECTS

A Vacation Trip.
Famous Castles of the World.
Picturesque Bridges.
Old-time Roadhouses.
Views in Well-known Parks.
Colonial Landmarks.
Universities and Colleges.
Scenes Along Famous Rivers.
Beauty Spots Near Home.
Rural England.
Battlefields of the Nation.
Paris by Postcard.
Beauties of the Sunny South.
Favorites at the Zoo.

Postcard Games

As one form of entertainment, perhaps the younger folks may enjoy trying to stamp a postcard while blindfolded. Make a large crayon drawing of a landscape, in colors, on a sheet of wrapping-paper of the same proportions as a postcard, with a space marked off in one corner for the stamp, or the address side may be used and on it the name of the church as addressee. A postcard album would be a good prize if you

cared to keep up the interest for a little while by offering something to try for.

Another way to use the cards is to write the story of an imaginary trip, starting with your home town and leaving blanks to be filled in with the names of places or scenes illustrated on the postcards, the descriptive lines on each having been covered. A toy suitcase filled with candy is a good prize for the one who guesses the greatest number of places correctly.

Sight-seeing Tours

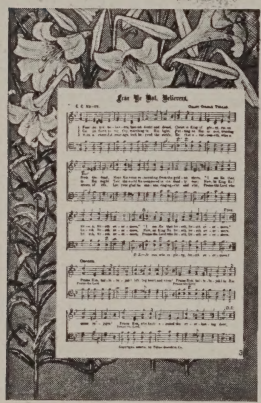
Still another way is to invite your guests to join you on a "Seeing Washington" tour, or any other city that has a special interest.

Yet another way is to display about the rooms cards from as many States as possible, with titles hidden. Place schools, post-offices, parks, mountains, etc., in groups, and number each card. Number one of the evening's program may be a contest in recognizing these views, the prizes being souvenir cards saying, "First prize, awarded for recognition of the largest number

of American postcard views, at ——— Souvenir Postcard Social."

"Who's Who" in the Hymnal?

Did you ever try a Who's Who Social? Did you ever mention the name of a well-known personage to a boy that he didn't ask "Who's he?" That's just what every one wants to know about people who are doing things. It's a good idea to keep in mind and work up along any line of work in which you are especially interested so that the young people may get acquainted with the leaders in reforms of to-day. Or you could have some fun, if you have any one among your company who can draw, by sketching the profiles of your guests, cutting them out of black paper, and placing them in the machine for enlargement, letting the guests guess "who's who." But, keeping to our postcard idea, as you can get well-known hymns printed with music on postcards, you might have an evening of "Who's Who in the Hymnal." Books giving information as to the writers of well-



known hymns are easily obtainable, so that almost any one could plan such an evening. The hymns on the souvenir card could be sung.

Using Musical Postcards in Sunday School

The problem of getting pupils and teachers to Sunday-school on time was solved, for one Sunday at least, by an enterprising superintendent. He announced that he would be present and begin the session of the Sunday-school for the following Sunday on time, and that a souvenir (not telling what it would be) would be given to every person who was there at the opening of the school. Curiosity had been aroused, and that did the work. As each one entered, a postcard bearing a song taken from the school's book, but one which was new to most of the pupils, was presented. This song was used to open the service.

Postcard Invitations to the Sunday Evening Service

For church use a pastor may select a postcard bearing a hymn, upon which he has printed a special invitation for the next Sunday evening service with the announcement of his subject and that this song will be used during the service. One hundred cards are mailed to the members of his congregation. Five hundred people see, read, and talk about this card and on Sunday evening many of them are there to take part in the singing of that hymn and to listen to the sermon of the evening.

CHAPTER XII

MAKING "DRY" THINGS INTERESTING

AT a conference of workers in young people's church societies held in connection with a recent religious convention the avowed purpose of all the thousands of young people represented was that of "social service," and all forms of activity seemed to show a serious trend.

Our young people have taken many steps forward in Christian culture when they can meet weekly and enjoy a Bible study or mission study class. But because of the many letters I have received asking for help along purely social lines, because I know the natural inclination of very young men and young women to shun anything that sounds as if it would be "dry," and because I feel so strongly that the social life of our church young people should be guided, I realize that we face a difficult problem in providing a popular social life, and at the same time giving it an educational value. Many helpful ideas are found at our well-known summer assemblies and I want to tell you of some I have gathered.

Suppose we look at the problem in another way, and see how we can make our cultural work sufficiently interesting to attract the younger ones who haven't "settled down" to only those things that are worth while—and it would be healthier for some of us if we never reached that point. A clergyman said to me recently that in looking over his congregation one day he concluded that about one-half of them laughed too much and the other half too little.

Contest for a Bible Study Class

Are you a member of a Bible study class? Did you ever try a Bible question contest? We had one in the society to which I belong, and it made us put on our thinking-caps. We took sides as in a spelling bee, and each captain chose the brightest one from the losing side.

How many of your members having an average knowledge of Bible narrative and history can answer offhand the following questions?

1. Who was the first harpist and organist?

2. Which of the apostles were believed by the people of Lystra to be Jupiter and Mercury?

3. What commander established a test of pronunciation to determine a certain nationality?

4. Where is it prophesied that the papyrus or paper-weed, which once flourished so luxuriantly that it formed jungles along the banks of the Nile, would at this time no longer be found there?

5. Which of the Jewish kings built an ivory house?

6. What woman was the sole ruler of Judah for six years?

7. Which prophet wrote a biography of David and also one of Solomon, both of which were lost?

8. Where is there Biblical allusion to the Egyptian custom of cutting recesses in the sides and bottom of deep pits for the reception of mummies?

9. During the reign of which King of Judah occurred the event described by Byron's poem:

"The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold,
And his cohorts were gleaming in purple and gold"?

10. What royal prince, having no son, erected a pillar to keep his name in remembrance?

11. Which governor of the Jews commanded that the gates of Jerusalem be closed on the Sabbath?

12. Which prophet was commanded by the Lord to take a tile and portray upon it a picture of Jerusalem?

13. At whose inauguration did the people first shout "God save the King!"?

14. Which of Noah's sons was the remote ancestor of Christ?

15. Which prophet of the captivity was commanded to eat a book?

Try these questions before looking at the following answers:

1. Genesis 4: 21.
2. Acts 14: 12.
3. Judges 12: 6.
4. Isaiah 19: 7.

5. 1 Kings 22: 39.
6. 2 Chronicles 22: 12.
7. 1 Chronicles 29: 29; 2 Chronicles 9: 29.
8. Ezekiel 32: 23.
9. Isaiah 37: 35, 36.
10. 2 Samuel 18: 18.
11. Nehemiah 13: 19.
12. Ezekiel 4: 1.
13. 1 Samuel 10: 24.
14. Genesis 11: 11–26; Matthew 1.
15. Ezekiel 2: 9; 3: 2.

A Botanical Search of the Scriptures

The church rooms should be decorated with lilies, roses, rushes, palms, myrtle, cedar, or representations of these. Displayed about the rooms may be bags of timothy, flax, wheat, and barley seed, olives, figs, cinnamon sticks, mustard, apples, acorns, gourds, bunches of herbs, and willows.

After the guests have assembled, the committee in charge should hand each a card with pencil attached. On this card should be written, with blank spaces opposite, the names of the following books of the Bible: Revelation, Ruth, St. Matthew, Proverbs, Timothy, The Song of Solomon, Exodus, Isaiah, Numbers, 2 Kings, Leviticus, Psalms, Chronicles, Zechariah, and St. Mark. Then at a given signal the search begins for the plants, trees, or fruits displayed about the room or used in decorations, which are mentioned in the books

named on the cards. Thus, if one found a bunch of saffron, which is mentioned in The Song of Solomon, the word "saffron" should be written in the blank space opposite that book. Some books have several plants which belong to them.

At the end of twenty minutes the cards should be collected and judged. The most successful competitor should then be asked to give Biblical accounts of two plants named.

Exhibiting Articles Mentioned in the Bible

Another interesting form of instruction that shows us how much the Bible is a book of to-day would be to have an exhibit of fifty articles mentioned in the Bible, calling on those present to state in what connection they were mentioned, like salt, grapes, etc.

The "Sport" of Spelling

By the way, do you know that there is a new "sport"?—one of the magazines calls it so—the "sport of spelling." You can enliven the end of an evening spent in study by having an old-fashioned bee. Most of us lean too hard on the dictionary, anyway. This educative sport is highly enough esteemed to be indulged in yearly at Chautauqua, and was also enjoyed

by the National Educational Association at Cleveland. And, oh! Some of those words!

Excursions of Local Interest

Here is an idea which very appropriately comes in at this point. A pastor has written me about the plan successfully tried by his young people's society in a suburban town near New York. The suggestion could be followed in modified form in almost any locality. An excursion was planned for one day in every month to some point of sociological or ethical interest. The trip to and from the point to be visited gave ample opportunity to become acquainted, especially in summer, when basket luncheons were taken. One trip was made to Ellis Island, where the party saw several thousands of immigrants land pass through the various examinations, and then go out into the new country. Another trip was taken to a University Settlement, and one to Chinatown. At the regular meeting of the society following a trip the pastor gave a brief talk about the places visited, and each one present was encouraged to give his or her impressions or to ask questions. A good feature of this sort of entertainment is that it is interesting to both old and young. Every locality has some point of interest which may be profitably visited. Old battlefields, historic houses, large factories, etc., are all good

laboratories for the up-to-date minister who is alive to present day problems.

Appreciating Good Sculpture

For those young people who wish to spend some time in profitable reading and study, and are not taking up these serious subjects, the field is unlimited. The members of one society in a large city in which an exhibition of sculpture was recently held prepared themselves to enjoy the exhibit intelligently by taking up several months in advance the study of famous statuary. Ancient and modern sculpture may be made interesting studied from penny pictures, which will fix in the mind the mythical story of the marble.

A Trip to Europe

I am sure you will find this idea from a girl reader interesting:

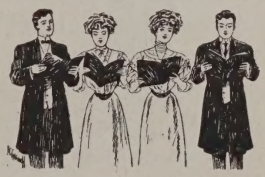
"We are a Sunday-school class of twenty girls, and we organized a club for self-improvement. We decided that one course of study for the winter would be more profitable than miscellaneous subjects. 'A Trip to Europe' was suggested, and a year-book was planned. Tourists' circulars and guide-books were studied and each girl was assigned a country on which to plan papers.

"At our first meeting one of the girls described our getting ready for the trip and our journey to the coast; another, the voyage and experiences

with fellow-passengers, while a third wrote of the landing in the foreign port. We made it all real by bringing in dialogue between the girls, mentioning details concerning transportation, hotels, etc., showing pictures and souvenirs. We had music, and refreshments appropriate to the country. The meetings have been so successful that other girls are clamoring to join our club. One evening we are to have a musicale, following our evening in Germany. By spring we shall be homeward bound and shall then know very much more about Europe than we do now."

Choral Contest

A choral contest was a feature greatly enjoyed at Winona Lake. Of course, there were unusual facilities for presenting such a form of entertainment, and in some places, perhaps, the idea could not be carried out in the same high-class manner. But the idea admits of adaptation, and such a contest would interest music-lovers everywhere. The choirs of several churches might join in this. The various contests should be assigned for different evenings in a number of churches. This gives an opportunity for solo and duet competitions for both



male and female voices, glee contests, piano solo contests, women's chorus contests, etc. All prizes awarded—and this seems almost necessary to sharpen the competition—should be in money, and should be awarded to the respective choirs and not individually, with the understanding that the honor is to be retained and the prize bestowed upon the needful object for which the choral contest is held.

College Rallies

College Day held in connection with the summer Young People's Meeting at Ocean Grove presents a good idea to be developed locally. To hear representatives from fifty colleges tell in song or spoken words what their alma mater stood for was to catch the college spirit enthusiastically. Such a service, which cannot be anything but inspirational in its effect, might well be copied by some of our large city churches. It would help to create a social atmosphere and provide a meeting ground for new friends among kindred spirits. Decorations of half a hundred colleges were displayed; pillars were draped in foundation colors, while the names of the colleges were lettered down the pillars in the companion colors. The young woman ushers were becomingly attired in

caps and gowns. In a public assembly the "ends of the earth" are often unknowingly brought together, and an alphabetical roll-call of colleges would doubtless bring out in a city church, as it did on this occasion, responses from representatives of an astonishingly large number of educational institutions—even those of England, Germany, Turkey, and China being represented. College music and college cheers bring back instantly the youthful enthusiasm of college days.

Can You Place These Quotations?

Suppose we say that the purpose of our social life should be for three things: education, service, and relaxation. Well and good! We've been talking about some educational methods. Let us lean back in our chairs now and see what we know or think we know about this. Some know their Bibles better than they know Shakespeare, and, yes, with some it would be true the other way about. In which book would you find these quotations, in the Bible or in a volume of Shakespeare's works?

1. The love of money is the root of all evil.
2. Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty.
3. Is there anything whereof it may be said, "See, this is new"?
4. There's a special providence in the fall of a sparrow.

5. The evil that men do lives after them.

6. My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me!

7. One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.

8. Stolen waters are sweet.

9. A friend loveth at all times.

10. Wisdom and goodness to the vile seem vile.

11. Like madness is the glory of this life.

12. Hope deferred maketh the heart sick.

13. He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet.

14. Life's but a walking shadow.

15. Happy thou are not; for what thou hast not still thou strivest to get.

16. A friend should bear his friend's infirmities.

17. I am escaped with the skin of my teeth.

18. A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance.

19. All things are ready if our minds be so.

20. The glory of young men is their strength.

21. What I will not, that I cannot do.

22. The world is but a word.

23. The light is sweet, and a pleasant thing it is for the eyes to behold the sun.

24. Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labor.

25. Oh, that this too, too solid flesh would melt!

26. Smooth runs the water where the brook is deep.

27. That men should put an enemy in their mouths to steal away their brains!

28. A man that hath friends must show himself friendly.

29. Refuse profane and old wives' fables.

30. The apprehension of the good gives but the greater feeling to the worse.

Here is the key, but why not try before you look?

1. 1 Timothy 6: 10.
2. Proverbs 20: 13.
3. Ecclesiastes 1: 10.
4. Hamlet, Act V, Scene II.
5. Julius Cæsar, Act III, Scene II.
6. Isaiah 24: 16.
7. Troilus and Cressida, Act III, Scene III.
8. Proverbs 9: 17.
9. Proverbs 17: 17.
10. King Lear, Act IV, Scene II.
11. Timon of Athens, Act I, Scene II.
12. Proverbs 13: 12.
13. Proverbs 6: 13.
14. Macbeth, Act V, Scene V.
15. Measure for Measure, Act III, Scene I.
16. Julius Cæsar, Act IV, Scene III.
17. Job 19: 20.
18. Proverbs 15: 13.
19. Henry V, Act IV, Scene III.
20. Proverbs 20: 29.
21. Measure for Measure, Act II, Scene II.
22. Timon of Athens, Act II, Scene II.
23. Ecclesiastes 11: 7.
24. Ecclesiastes 4: 9.
25. Hamlet, Act I, Scene II.
26. Henry VI, Part II, Act III, Scene I.
27. Othello, Act II, Scene III.
28. Proverbs 18: 24.
29. I Timothy 4: 7.
30. Richard II, Act I, Scene III.

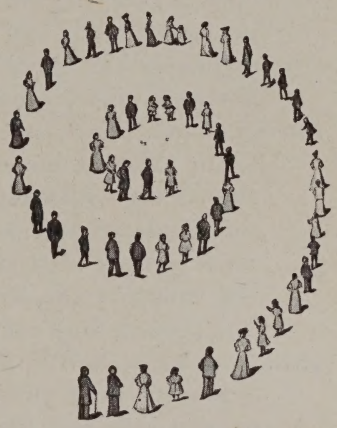
Combining Three Good Things

WHILE all healthy young people must have recreation and innocent fun, it is a good thing, too, for church young people to know what the branch of the church to which they belong is doing, and, as a first step, a "Denominational Social"—oh, no, that sounds dry; let's call it a "Combination Social"—is practicable. I say "combination" because a rare combination of sociability, interest, and instruction was brought out recently at a union social of the young people's societies of seven churches of one denomination. The plan could be used by any denomination. There's nothing like what I call a good "mixer" for starting a social, and the one they tried seems the best of which I ever have heard.

The Spiral Shakedown

The chairman of the evening asked all present to form in one spiral line. This line extended nearly twice around the room, the chairman being very persistent and allowing no one to keep out. It required several minutes to complete this formation, during which the ice was being well broken and every one's curiosity was being aroused. The pastor of the local church was then stationed at the inside end of the spiral line, and was requested to pass along the front of

the entire length of the line and shake hands with every person. The second person in line followed immediately after him and shook hands with every person, and so on until no one was left in line. Several times during this "Spiral Shakedown" it was necessary to request some one, who wanted to talk too long with an old acquaintance, to move on down the line and not delay the shake too long. When this introductory number on the program had been completed everybody had shaken hands with everybody else in the room, everybody's hand ached from shaking, everybody's face ached from smiling, everybody felt good-natured, and everybody felt at home.



Motto Contest

The next number was a motto contest. The motto of these societies is "Look up, lift up." Every person was supplied with a piece of white cardboard and a pencil and asked to write as

many two-word mottoes as he could which were suitable for the members to adopt. The first word might be anything, the second word must be "Up," such as "speak up," "brace up," "sing up." A gold badge of the society was offered as a prize, and time was called at the end of eight minutes. The cards were then given to a committee to report on later.

Naming Church Dignitaries

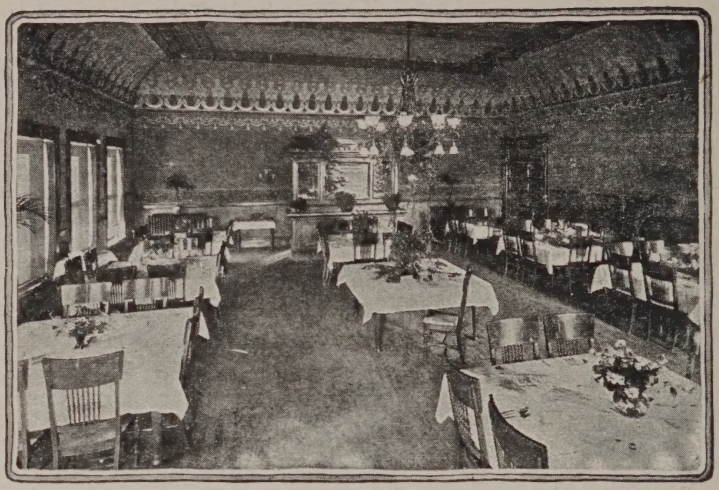
For the next number the members from each church were gathered in a group and a banner was displayed as a prize for the winning society. Each group was given a card and asked to write the names of the living bishops of the church. The pastors were excluded from this test.

Identifying Portraits With Names

For the next number the men were gathered on one side and the women on the other. A list of leaders in their denomination had been prepared on two sets of cards. A portrait and the first part of each name were on a card in one set, the rest of the name, and the office in the church at large, on a card in the other set. One set of cards was distributed among the men, the other among the women. They were then asked to match up the names, and had something of interest to talk about when the card was completed.

Why This Social Succeeded

This gathering was pronounced by all present the most enjoyable, profitable, and social occasion of the sort they had ever attended. The handshake broke up all formality, the contests with their time-limits aroused intense interest, the various shifts prevented the grouping of friends, and denominational interest was stimulated.



CHAPTER XIII

SOME GOOD CHURCH SUPPERS

MANY excellent church suppers have been spoiled in the serving through the inattention of the pretty waitresses; one guest will get coffee, but no sugar or cream; another will have butter, but no bread. A hungry man once said after such an occasion: "It was a good enough supper, but was too much like a Chinese puzzle —it took me too long to get all the parts together." Poor service comes from bad management.

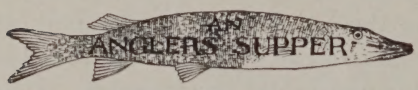
A Well-equipped Dining-room

The church society in Michigan, whose pretty dining-room is shown at the head of this chapter, is equipped with its own stoves, dishes, silver, and linen, and its suppers are served for their social benefit rather than for money. Every woman attending the church has her name enrolled on one of nine lists into which the parish is divided by the old-time spelling-match method of "choosing around." She contributes one dollar and a half when her circle serves, once a year, and is not expected to contribute again during the year. A caterer is engaged for these suppers and no begging is done. One gentleman of the church is appointed to seat guests and pay attention to strangers. The older ladies of the circle are seated at a daintily appointed center-table to pour coffee. Supper tickets are in three sets—red, green, and yellow—enough of each to fill the dining-room once. First come are first served. Many times there are guests to fill the room twice when supper is announced, but only red tickets are accepted until the tables are filled, then green, then yellow; by this method all confusion is avoided. The diners frequently like to complete the evening's pleasure by attending an entertainment given in the auditorium by one of the other societies of the church.

An Anglers' Supper

A NOVEL invitation to a supper of this kind is in the form of a cardboard fish about six inches long. On one side are the words: "An Anglers' Supper"; on the other side: "You are cordially invited," with the announcement of the time and place.

Crossed oars and draped nets—tennis nets will answer—should form the main decorations of the dining-room, with green shades for the lights. From the chandeliers hang huge fish of gray cardboard marked with silver paint. Place in the center of each table a fern with the pot concealed by green paper cut to resemble seaweed, a bowl containing goldfish, or a small mirror surrounded by seashells, on which floats a toy boat.



Fishing for the Menu

A great deal of merriment will be caused by having each guest fish for his or her supper. In other words, from a choice on the bill-of-fare prepare some attractive menus, each written on a fish-shaped card with a fish-hook attached. These are put into a fish-pond and each guest is handed a rod to angle for an individual menu, on which,

when he gets it, he writes his name and then hands it to the waitress. The following menu is given in the way of suggestion, and may be changed easily according to food supplies in the local markets:

Clam chowder.
Boiled halibut. Baked shad.
Mashed potatoes. Bread and butter.
Salmon salad. Deviled crabs.
Lemon ice. Sponge cake.
Coffee.

Among substitute dishes are sardines, crab salad, escalloped oysters, oyster stew, codfish balls, and lobster salad; for additional vegetables, peas and beets. Any preferred relish may be served.

Program Suggestions

Fish conundrums, and readings and recitations from the wealth of good literature concerning anglers, or a talk on "The Wonders of the Deep," will afford entertainment during a social hour following the supper.

To Tempt the Appetite in Spring

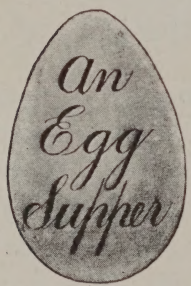
FOR a Dairy Supper miniature milking-stools holding dairy-pans of bright tin filled with ferns are appropriate for table decoration. The following menu might be offered:

Cold tongue.
Creamed potatoes. Welsh rarebit.
Cottage cheese. Bread and butter.
Chicken salad with cream dressing.
Cream puffs. Ice cream. Cream cake.
Milk. Buttermilk.

Pastoral songs, readings and recitations will give a foretaste of summer in the way of entertainment.

Egg Supper

The decorations for this occasion should be in white and gold, with potted palms and lilies as a background. The helpers should be dressed in white. The menu, printed in gold on egg-shaped cards, might be:



Cold chicken.
Eggs to order. Bread and butter.
Lettuce salad. Deviled eggs.
Gold cake.
Frozen custard. Silver cake.
Milk. Tea.

Vegetarian Supper

This supper attracts those who enjoy most a meal without meat, or who do not eat meat at night.

Arrange tables radiating from the center of

the room, like the spokes of a wheel; the hub a mass of plants. Decorate the tables with center-pieces of fruit upon lettuce leaves; the fruit may be the last course. Core red apples, roll the paper napkins full length and run them through the apples, which will serve as napkin-rings. Use natural dishes wherever possible. Carrots may be scooped out to serve as candle-holders, and grapefruit rinds can hold sugar. Cabbage hollowed out may be used for the cold-slaw dish; cucumbers halved will hold pickles, and green peppers serve as mustard-cups.

A presiding hostess should pour coffee at each table. As a suggestion this menu is offered:

Vegetable soup.
Boiled macaroni. Baked potatoes.
Whole wheat bread. Cold slaw.
Sliced tomatoes. Lettuce salad, French dressing.
Wafers.
Baked apples. Fresh fruit.
Coffee.

Daisy Festival

The room where the supper is served should be decorated with ferns and daisies. Folded white menu cards should have a daisy painted on the outside, and should be tied with yellow ribbon.

Serve salads garnished with slices of egg cut like daisies. Mould the butter in daisy form and

put a small piece of unsweetened chocolate in the center, making a yellow daisy. The napkins, of course, should carry out the color and flower scheme.

A suitable menu would be:

Potato salad. Chicken salad. Egg salad.
Olives. Rolls.
Vanilla ice cream. Orange cake. Orange ice.
Cocoa with whipped cream. Lemonade.
Coffee.

A daisy race is a pleasing feature for entertainment after the supper. A quantity of daisies are strewn in an inclosed space and the race begins. The prize—which might be a small stickpin—goes to the one who picks up the most daisies in two minutes, and, arranging the flowers as he or she gathers them, presents the best-arranged bouquet to the judges.

A Navy Supper

This is unique, interesting, and inexpensive. The tables are covered with white oilcloth, and decorated with anchors and coils of rope, with long wooden benches for seats; the plates and cups are of tin. A gong summons all to supper, and a gangway with rather a steep incline makes a merry start. It is fun using only the naval term when ordering, but if you want to try

this the correct name might also be given on the menu-cards. The men wear white suits and caps, and serve the following menu:

Naval Term	Correct Name
Bullets.	Baked beans.
Red lead.	Ketchup.
Spuds.	Saratoga chips.
Canned willy	Cold roast beef
or	or
Salt horse.	Cold sliced corn beef.
Mystery.	Potato salad.
Punk, grease, and slush.	Bread, butter, and coffee.
Fruito.	Canned fruit.

A boy in reefer and sailor cap distributed envelopes supposed to contain "Sealed Orders," which proved to be cards marked "Return Tickets," with the commanding invitation to "Come to Our Church Services," with data as to hours, places of meeting, leaders, and so on.

Marine Supper

To have a bit of seashore, recalling one's summer outing, brought in winter to those who live inland, is a pleasant experience, and a "Marine Supper" is sure to be popular and profitable. The tables should be arranged as in the saloon of a ship, and the walls of the dining-room decorated with flags. The menu may be painted on oyster or clam shells, or, if these are

not obtainable, on water-color paper cut to represent shells, decorated with seaweed or sketches of boats or sea views. The menu may consist of:

Oysters on the half-shell.
Thin slices of buttered brown bread.
Thin slices of lemon.
Deviled crabs. Lobster salad.
Bread sticks. Thin crackers.
Olives.
Sea-moss blanc-mange. Sand tarts.
Coffee.

The waiters or waitresses should be dressed in sailor suits. The supper may be enlivened with music by a "Marine Band," composed for the occasion of local talent, playing "Hands Across the Sea," or any appropriate selection.

When Autumn Turns the Leaves

Autumn decorations give us one of the prettiest suppers imaginable, with their rich red, brown, and orange tints. Set the tables together to form three sides of a hollow square. At each end, at the corners, and at several points between, place diagonally large hoops blocked to stand upright. Starting at one corner twine a garland of autumn leaves around the first hoop, then trail it along the table to the next hoop, and so on. Suspend a large apple by red ribbon from the top

of each hoop, and use red apples as candlesticks on mats of the leaves. Bank branches of leaves in the center of the hollow square, and knotted in twine festoon the leaves from the ceiling and twine them around pillars. The lights should also be shaded with the leaves. A few yellow chrysanthemums will add to the color effect, and lighted Japanese lanterns will make the whole scene prettier.

The tickets should be in the shape of autumn leaves, of yellow cardboard printed in red. These could also serve as menu-card souvenirs if so printed. The napkins should bear autumn-leaf designs.

For the supper, either a New England menu or corn menu would be appropriate.

An Indian Meal

Cornmeal mush or "Hasty pudding" with milk.
Fish or game.
Succotash. Bean soup.
Brown bread of Indian meal.
Corn bread (Johnny cakes).
Indian pudding.

Issue the invitations written on paper arrowheads, asking your friends to come to the "Indian Meal." Place small tables around a generous-sized room, having in the center a wigwam which may be used to conceal the necessary trays

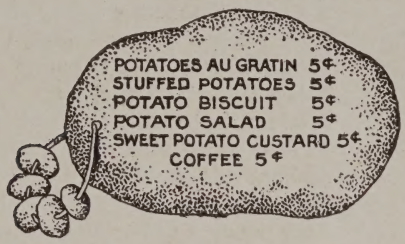
of forks, knives, spoons, glasses, etc. An entertainment of Indian songs and tableaux might

be given after the supper, and Indian goods obtained on commission might be sold by "squaws" after the entertainment.

Potato Supper

Inexpensive to prepare, but novel, is this supper, where only potatoes are served. Cut the menu cards from light-brown cardboard, shaping them like potatoes. On one end tie with brown silk floss a string of miniature potatoes which can be obtained in the fall from the cinnamon vine. On one side give the menu. On the other side write the invitation.

Candelabra and potted palms will answer for decorations. Place small tables about the room where the supper is to be served. In the center of each table set a single candlestick and at each



place a raw potato flattened underneath and hollowed out on top to hold a tiny candle. Relishes may be served with the supper, but the novelty of the affair lies in the menu.

Another Form for the Potato Supper

Here is another form, with a catchy invitation. If you should have this invitation printed on brown paper I am sure the people would come out of curiosity:

A Sociable next Friday night!
Look down below, first left, then right,
And you will see the "Bill-of-Fare
In English language written there:
POTATOES HOT, POTATOES COLD,
POTATOES NEW, POTATOES OLD.
Some we will boil and some we'll bake,
And some serve in a hot loaf-cake;

Potatoes also we'll prepare
In brown croquettes as light as air,
And some make up in griddle-cakes
As nice as any French cook makes.
And then dessert—for those who wish
We will prepare some dainty dish,
"Fit for the gods," you'll think, we know,
Though mostly made of potato.
This sociable is to be given
Between the hours of four and seven,
At ——— Hall next Friday night,
And one and all we here invite:
Be sure to come: don't be afraid,
Your presence will—"THE LADIES AID."

Supper for the Children

Mothers with young children always find it hard to attend a supper at the church or to enjoy it if they do attend. One church helps these mothers by arranging a low table and primary-class chairs in a separate room for the little ones, where a very simple supper is served.

In planning the menu for this table select dishes that can be prepared at home, such as chicken sandwiches, stewed prunes, and cornstarch, with milk to drink. Mould the cornstarch in fancy forms with preserved strawberries or cherries on top.

The result of the children's table will be grati-

fied parents, happy children, and a new feature for the church supper.

Uncle Sam's Supper

THIS plan purposely omits elaborately set tables, aiming, rather, to have the accessories picturesque. Each booth represents a different section of our country, and is in charge of a general manager who plans the decorations, appoints her helpers, and prepares to serve a supper in lunch-counter style.

Uncle Sam should appear in costume. Select a man for this part who is of the right build physically, and who is also a good talker. He welcomes all comers with beaming hospitality and boastfully points out the peculiar merits of each section.

Where the Puritan Housewife Rules

The New England section is graced by women in Puritan caps and aprons, who dispense baked beans, brown bread, boiled dinner, doughnuts, pumpkin pie, and coffee. The rudely improvised counter is carefully hidden by the spotless white muslin stretched across the front. The use of a number of small tablecloths on the top of the counter facilitates the changing of the cloths without disturbing the general arrangement.

Southern Hospitality

The Southern section has a typical cook in neat cotton gown and gay turban to bake pancakes, corn-pone, and other famous hot breads. Characteristic Southern dishes are chicken gumbo, the Creole dish jambalaya, rice with vegetables, pilou; for dessert, caramel pudding with whipped cream, or fritters and syrup.

The Good Knickerbocker Cooks

Another distinctive section of our country centers in New York, and the attendants at this booth wear the costume of the Netherlands, copied from pictures of the early colonists. The cookery of the period should be represented by oly koecks, izer cookies, and crullers; all kinds of pastry, preserves, and pickles also find place at this booth. Roasted turkey "daintily trussed up, and, peradventure, a necklace of savory sausages," has its place on the menu.

The Appetizing Dishes of the Southwest

In the California section Spanish-American costumes, decorations, and dishes give a picturesque motif. The menu may consist of tamales, chile con carne, grape-juice, nut sandwiches, and olives.

A place is also provided for Uncle Sam's peanut and popcorn booth, without which the children will doubtless think the affair very incomplete.

Musical Menu

1. "Shells of Ocean"—Oysters.
2. "Ever the Same"—Wafers.
3. "Afar in the Woods"—Game.
4. "New England, New England"—Beans.
5. "Coming Thro' the Rye"—Bread.
6. "Joys that We've Tasted"—Jelly.
7. "There's Nae Room for Twa"—Pickles.
8. "Maryland, My Maryland"—Maryland biscuit.
9. "I Know Not Why I Love Thee"—Olives.
10. "O Sweet and Fair"—Angel cake.
11. "O Wert Thou in the Cauld Blast"—Ice cream.
12. "Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes"—Coffee.
13. "Twilight Dews"—Collection of cost of dinner.

Geographical Gastronomics

Decorate the tables with small paper reproductions (home manufactured) of national flags. The attendants should be in national costumes.

Domain of the "Sick Man of Europe"—Turkey.

Warm friends of Ireland reduced to subjection—Mashed potatoes.

Small bodies surrounded by water, just off Cape Cod—Cranberry sauce.

A contribution from the capital of Austria—Vienna rolls.

A European country (Greece) in most palatable form—Butter.

A cosmopolitan group—Assorted cakes.

A direct importation from Chile—Ice cream.

A native of Brazil—Coffee.

What is Your Name?

Have menu-cards made out in alphabetical order, in this way:

A—Apples, almonds.
B—Bananas, bread.
C—Corn, cheese.
D—Dressing, doughnuts.

Each person seated at the table receives a card on which he writes his name. His supper is then served, each article commencing with a letter to correspond with the letters of his name. For example, "John Smith" would get

Jumbles.	Soup.
Oysters.	Mustard.
Ham.	Ice cream.
Nuts.	Tea.
	Herring.

Should a letter be repeated in a name, serve the second article beginning with that letter. The supper will likely prove sufficiently laughable to aid digestion.

Where a Good Laugh Helps

The jollity of the social features of this supper may have been planned to counteract the possible ill effects of too much pie.

Prepare souvenirs from paper pie plates cut

in three-cornered pieces, tie two of these pieces together, fastening the "crust" edges with baby ribbon. Decorate the upper piece with a picture of any fruit or fowl used in pie-making; a pasted picture will answer nicely for this. Each gentleman is required to write on the under piece the recipe for a pie made from the fruit or fowl represented on his paper pie souvenir. These souvenirs are numbered and when collected the recipes should be read for the supposed edification of those present. The ladies act their pie-making in pantomime, for example: the one getting a chicken souvenir represents the killing of the chicken, the picking, boiling, lifting of the kettle, mixing and rolling crust, and so on. In fruit pies, the picking of the fruit is shown.

The supper consists of oyster pie, chicken pie, meat pie, rolls, celery, coffee, mince and pumpkin pie.

Here is an invitation form:

"We've baked the pies you all like best
And are willing now to stand the test;
'The proof of the pudding is in the eating,'
And the pies we serve there is no beating.
So we hope you'll every one come 'round
And eat the best pies ever browned."

College Opening Supper

WHAT COURSE WILL YOU TAKE?

Languages—Cold tongue.
Botany—Lettuce sandwiches.
Mathematics—Nuts—to crack.
History—Dates.
Astronomy—Cakes, star-shaped.
Geology—Rock candy.
Chemistry—Water.
Forestry—Toothpicks.

Each guest upon arrival is given an enrolment card and directed to a table containing writing materials. The guests sign their cards and select their studies from a chart upon the wall containing a list of the branches taught and the name of the instructor in each; the number of "courses" selected should be not less than four, and the first two should be "required." The cards are then presented at the secretary's desk for inspection and suggestions of better selections in the courses. The guests then go to the different instructors, who are seated at tables concealed by screens, a sign on the outside guiding the way, and are served

with refreshments suggested by the branches chosen.

After ample time has been given for the supper a bell rings for chapel exercises, which consist in this case of readings and music, followed by a half-hour of social intercourse. The "instructors" should wear gowns and caps.

Corn Supper

A form of social entertainment particularly good for a church affair in the fall is a corn supper. Quantities of tall cornstalks and ears of corn may be used to good advantage in decorating the room where the tables are arranged. A portion of the room may be set apart for those who serve by erecting a cornstalk partition made by standing the stalks upright between wires. Another unique idea is to have portières of popcorn strings, similar to the Japanese bead curtains. All lights should be shaded in corn color. Brass candlesticks, with yellow candles and yellow shades, are just the things for such an occasion. If there are several chandeliers in the room, place the tables beneath them and suspend strings of popcorn from the chandeliers to the corners and sides of the tables, and underneath the chandeliers hang clusters of popcorn balls tied with

yellow ribbon. A centerpiece of oranges will carry out the color scheme, or large platters or fancy baskets heaped with the popcorn balls may be placed on the tables. An odd menu card is made by pressing flat a piece of dried husk and printing the menu thereon by means of a rubber hand stamp, which is quite inexpensive.

The following menu may be served:

Thin slices of cold corned beef.
Hot corn bread.
Corn oysters. Olives. Corn salad.
Gold cake. Coffee.

"Things are Seldom What They Seem"

A PIE–D AFFAIR

Dakeb anebs	(Baked beans).
Lodc atem	(Cold meat).
Obwnr rabde	(Brown bread).
Derceam otatop	(Creamed potato).
Kumpnip iep	(Pumpkin pie).
Foefce lyjel	(Coffee jelly).

Arrange the tables with the bread, cake, relishes, etc., placed on them. At each place set a piece of pie made of cardboard bent and tinted. On this write a printer's "pi," which, when the letters are sorted out, gives the special order for that place. Two examples of pied menus are

given on the preceding page. Make as many arrangements of "pi" as you may desire, and prepare to serve each as many times as you think may be necessary. If your patrons are acquainted there will be great fun sorting "pi" and "swapping" menus.

Roast Pig Supper

Roast young pig. Cranberry sauce.
Mashed potatoes. Braised sweet potatoes.
Creamed cauliflower. Baked beans.
Turnips.
Macaroni and tomatoes.
Cabbage salad.
Olives. Celery. Jelly.
Pickled beets. Cheese. Gherkins.
White bread. Brown bread.
Fruit.
Apple pie. Pumpkin pie.
Rice pudding. Tapioca pudding.
Coffee. Tea.

The folks who gave this supper believed in good things and lots of them, and they had occasion to remember the supper long afterward by means of the penwipers given as favors. They were cut of Bristol-board like the fat little pig here shown, which made it possible

to stand them up at each plate. A circular piece of flannel caught inside of the folded board made it a useful souvenir. The miniature pig might also do service as a menu-card.

Three Little Supper Ideas

An Apple Supper is a pleasing variation in the fall. Serve lamb chops, rolls, apple-butter or apple-sauce, Waldorf salad, baked apples and cream, crab-apple jelly tarts, and coffee. For decoration use apple boughs with paper blossoms, and have a guessing contest on different varieties of apples.

For a Zone Supper divide the dining-room into three sections, representing the Torrid, Temperate, and Frigid Zones. Decorate the Torrid Zone section with all kinds of brilliant-colored flowers, and have canaries in cages hung about the room. Everything served there—soup, meats, and so on—should be extremely hot. Separated by a curtain is the Temperate Zone, where the salad course is served by young girls in white. This room is decorated in green and white, with pink and white flowers, and leafy branches. In the Frigid Zone, ice and cotton-batting snow abound, and ice cream is served by men dressed in fur.

A "Hunter's Feast" was the kind of supper which the members of a church in North Georgia

enjoyed. The menu consisted chiefly of rabbit, squirrel, and 'possum, with all the other good things that usually accompany those meats. The room was arranged to give the appearance of the woods, and the young women who served were dressed in canvas hunting-costumes.

Snow Supper

Creamed fish.
Snow-white mashed potatoes.
Biscuits.
Snow pudding. Snow apples.
White cake. Frosted doughnuts.
Coffee, whipped cream.

Out in the country this Snow Supper would be a great success, and a ride to get it on a cold, frosty night would give one an appetite to enjoy it. All decorations should be pure white.

Two Refreshment Ideas

An Orange Supper is tasty and may be easily arranged. Decorate the dining-room with evergreens and orange festoons. Lay the tables with white cloths and paper napkins of orange and white. Ornament them with baskets of orange-blossoms and foliage, and oranges prettily cut and arranged in glass dishes. Serve fruit salad and nut sandwiches, oranges sliced and candied, orange cakes and orangeade. The waitresses wear white dresses and small, orange-colored aprons.

An after-supper surprise may be arranged at one end of the room by utilizing two screens for a booth, and placing the sign "Surprise" over the doorway left between them. While the guests are eating supper a small ticket, printed with the single word "Surprise," is placed on the table beside each one. After they have finished they make their way to the "Surprise" booth and receive an "after bit"—some salted nuts or other dainty in fancy paper cornucopias or home-made boxes.

Bandanna Supper

Typical Southern dishes are served at this supper—a different supper at each of four tables:

Hot waffles.
Stewed chicken.
Cream gravy.

Spare ribs.
Glazed sweet potatoes.
Baked apples.
Hot cornbread.

Fried chicken. Beaten biscuits.
Preserved apples.
Coffee.

Broiled ham. Baked potatoes.
Quince jelly. Soda biscuit.
Tea.

The caps and kerchiefs of the aides should be made from bandannas.

Southern melodies and readings would add to the entertainment of the guests.

Selections from "Bandanna Ballads" would be especially appropriate.

NEW METHODS OF CHURCH WORK

CHAPTER XIV

MONEY-RAISING PLANS THAT HAVE WORKED

FIRST, I wonder whether church members realize what a difference it would make in the finances of their own home churches, the little need of saying anything about the raising of money, how much more justly the ministry would be paid, and how much greater and more aggressive work the Church could do if every one should put by a tenth of what the Lord gives them, and would contribute at least a part of it regularly to the current expenses.

Did you ever figure out what it would mean, approximately, of course, if every one in your church gave "a tenth to the Lord"? Suppose you have two hundred members who earn, on an average, ten dollars a week, and they gave one-tenth of it—$10,400 a year! No begging in

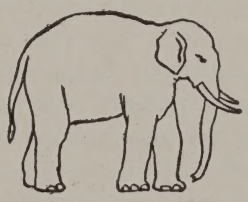
such a church, and plenty of means to enlarge its usefulness!

On Debt and Doing

It seems as if, in some ways, we never get over being children, and we children of a larger growth often refuse to take our duties unless—like children of smaller growth—we have them put before us in some attractive form. So a little novelty in the manner of soliciting church-debt subscriptions, or in the plan of paying them, will frequently carry a financial scheme that otherwise would be a failure.

To state the cold facts of a debt, a novel card like the one here shown will help to impress them on the mind. The very facts so strikingly presented would make people feel "we must do something"; the elephant's "keep," of course, representing the annual interest on the mortgage at five per cent. In the case of debt on a large city church, a banner with the

OUR WHITE ELEPHANT.



TEN YEARS OLD. VALUE, $12,000.
HIS "KEEP" COSTS $600 A YEAR.

picture and inscription may be floated from the building. It is not too much to expect that almost the whole city would be amused, and the good-natured subscriptions following from the general public would soon decrease the debt.

A "Chest of Jehoash"

Raising money for church repairs isn't a modern invention. Some twenty-seven hundred years ago King Jehoash wanted the temple repaired and had a little trouble getting the money to pay the masons and the carpenters until the priest took a chest, bored a hole in the lid of it, and set it beside the altar for the people to drop their money in as they came up to worship. This old plan was put in operation a while ago by a Western pastor. The treasurer of the church reported that something must be done to raise additional funds. It was a church of working men. The people seemed to be giving all they could afford. Yet money was needed. What was to be done? There was no thought of resorting to a church fair.

"Let's have a chest of Jehoash, to be filled after a month of self denial," was the suggestion made in the meeting of puzzled officers, as some one recalled the experience of the king as told in the Second Book of the Kings.

Self Denial Instead of a Fair

Every member of the church was given a small envelope with the title "Chest of Jehoash" on the face. In this every penny set aside through self denial during a given month was to be deposited. The majority of the members of the church took hold of the plan with a vim. Its success was assured when, on every hand, the people began talking of what the day would mean to them. Pastor and officers, from observations made in the prayer-meetings and in the homes of the people, knew that the month of giving would bring a far greater blessing than the payment of a debt.

When the appointed Sunday came a chest was placed at the side of the pulpit and the gifts were deposited in the box. They had asked for one hundred and fifty dollars. The amount was received, and nearly seventy-five dollars more. In addition to this the people had continued their regular gifts through the entire month. The people liked the plan so well that for six years now it has been an annual event, the only change being the substitution of November for January at the suggestion of the people, "because we have more money before Christmas." A number of other churches of differing degrees of wealth and in various sections of the country have tried the plan, which has resulted satisfactorily.

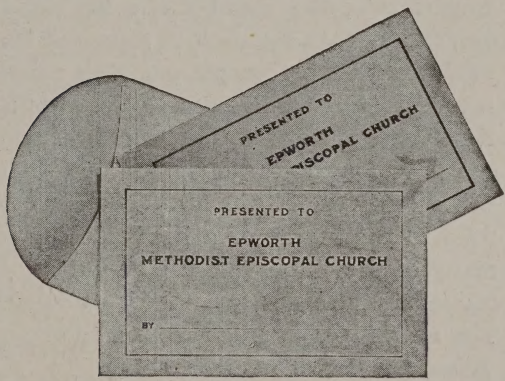
A Plan That Secured New Hymnals

A Methodist church in New Jersey had been somewhat restricted in its worship in song, and more or less confusion had resulted because of two editions of the hymnal being in use, necessitating the selection of hymns that were in both the old and revised editions, the announcing of the different numbers of the same hymn in both books and the singling out of such stanzas to be sung as were identical. The treasury did not seem to justify the outlay for a sufficient number of the new edition to supply all attendants, so the pastor evolved a plan to secure the needed books.

The members of the church were invited to present autographed copies. One white and one blue label measuring two inches by three inches and a quarter, bearing the words, "Presented to Epworth Methodist Episcopal Church by ——," were placed in an envelope of corresponding size and given to each member of the congregation; each one to make the choice of signing a white slip for a copy of the hymnal with music or a blue one for a copy without the tunes. After the slip chosen was autographed by the donor it was sealed in the little envelope in which it was received, accompanied by fifty cents for the musical edition or forty cents for

the edition without music, and dropped upon the plate with the regular offerings. Later the slip was pasted neatly on the inside of the front cover of its respective book, which was then placed in the church.

The pastor's plan worked out successfully in the securing of one hundred and eleven books



with the music and ten copies without the music, representing a gift valued at fifty-nine dollars and fifty cents made to the church by its members and friends. The secret of the success of the idea lay in the fact that it aroused a personal interest on the part of each contributor, who counted it a pleasure to have a part in the work.

Getting a New Carpet

Working on this same principle: that wherever you can get people to feel that they are individually responsible for the carrying through of a project or give them a personal interest in it, no matter how small, it will be a success, you will have no trouble in raising money for that new carpet you need. Draw a floor plan of your church, as a member of a Maryland church did, and let each square inch represent one square yard, then let the people put their names in the square at seventy-five cents or one dollar each. Nine times out of ten they will do it, and if each one pays for the carpet under his own feet you will soon have it paid for. The same plan applies to the laying of a hard-wood floor, which many of the churches are now putting in, with runners in the aisles, instead of an all-over carpet. The newer idea is much more sanitary.

More Money for Carpet

Speaking of buying a carpet, to help pay for it by simply helping to choose it is a novel scheme. A new carpet was needed in one church, and the members held a public meeting to which their friends were invited for the purpose of selecting the pattern. They had five different samples of carpet, but no one could have a voice in the choosing unless he or she paid for the privilege.

It was decided that the pattern receiving the highest number of votes should be the one to cover the church floor. Five cents was the amount paid by each voter every time a ballot was cast.

Money to Finish a Basement

On this same theory, another church in Oregon that needed a room for social gatherings decided to finish off its basement. The expense would be between two and three hundred dollars, and it all had to come in small contributions. The plastering and finishing of the walls was paid for by the Sunday-school in this way: Every wall was marked off on paper in squares to represent square yards. The south wall was given to the boys, the north wall to the girls, the teachers took the east and west walls, while one individual took the responsibility of the ceiling, getting contributions from any one willing to help. Each square represented one share of basement stock, and one could take as many squares as he desired. The shares were twenty-five cents, and everybody had a chance to become a stockholder.

Paying a Penny a Day

One of the best plans to make it easy for a congregation to raise money is to have "A Penny-a-Day Fund." Just consider it for a moment.

Say you want to get rid of a debt of one thousand dollars; all the machinery needed will be two hundred people who will promise to pay one penny a day, two hundred little barrels to put the pennies in, and twenty faithful collectors who will collect the money every two weeks and hand it to the treasurer: fourteen cents every fourteen days from each contributor. This amount seems very small, but look at it. With two hundred people doing it, it makes twenty-eight dollars paid off on the debt every two weeks, and in a little less than one year and five months the whole amount will be raised—just by two hundred people paying a penny a day for that length of time. It is a good plan not to give more than ten names to a collector; too much work may mean poor work, and to the faithfulness of the collectors is due much of the success of this plan.

Varied Assessments

Another plan to raise several hundred dollars and do it quickly was carried out successfully in this way: The amount needed was divided proportionately among the membership of the church. The plan as a whole was being talked about, and some secretly rebelled at the prospect of being assessed a sum which they felt might be inconvenient for them to pay; but when a cordial, courteous letter was sent out to each member,

asking him for a certain amount and telling why it was asked, there was so much good-humored comparing of the amounts asked for, and so much curiosity as to how the conclusion was reached that one should pay one dollar and twenty-three cents, another two dollars and thirty-seven cents, and another four dollars or five dollars, that every one gave hearty coöperation; the amount in almost every case being smaller than was anticipated. The assessments were paid, and in a very short time the amount raised was about three hundred and fifty dollars.

What Three Pastors Have Done

HERE are the experiences of three pastors who have solved some of these money-raising problems:

"I wish to tell you of a most successful plan to raise money which occurred to me one day and which I immediately put in operation," says a New York pastor. "Our church had a debt of two thousand dollars. I asked different organizations in the church to assume the responsibility of paying the interest on a certain proportion of the debt, thinking, perhaps, that they might try also, as a matter of ambition, to pay a small portion of the principal besides. The plan exceeded my expectations, for in six

months two of our societies have nearly wiped out their share of the principal as well as the interest, and every society but two has paid something on the principal."

That Unpaid Coal Bill

"'A Church debt is the devil's salary,' so says the maxim. He takes time off when the merchants of a town say they would rather sell a bill of goods to a saloon than to a church. 'Money's surer,' says the merchant. The church folks who ask a merchant to sell at wholesale, then to donate a part of the bill, and, finally, make him wait a year for his money, trail the church's banner in the dust, and then wonder why the man of business is so hard to reach!" so writes a Pennsylvania pastor.

"To a church that had fallen into these bad habits there came one day a preacher who thought it was as wicked to withhold sterilized coin as to take tainted greenbacks. 'It's hard to raise money on an ash pile.' 'Burned anthracite gives no heat,' said he. 'Let's pay our hundred-dollar coal bill now.' The officials looked him in the eyes; read something there; handed him the reins and gave him the driving-seat.

Raising the Coal Money

"The next Saturday the minister went down into the cellar of the church, picked out one

hundred of the largest pieces of coal he could find, brushed them till they sparkled, carried them up to the platform in the church, piled them up in a pyramid on a table, and covered them with a white cloth. Then he got one hundred pieces of white paper and laid them beside the table.

"Sunday morning he stood on his platform as one who had chosen his field and was ready for the fray. He told of the coal bill: the difficulty of payment in former years and the possibility of paying this in a few minutes. It sounded like the bark of a five-inch rapid-fire gun. He drew aside the white cloth and showed the pyramid of coal. Every eye was upon him. There was the tense strain of expectant silence. 'This pile of coal,' said he, 'represents our coal bill for the winter. I want you to carry away your share of the bill. Take a piece home as a souvenir. I will be the first one to pay five dollars for this piece,' holding up a nugget. This started a run for coal, and all over the house, as fast as an assistant could wrap up the lumps, the people were clamoring to pay their share. In a few minutes the necessary amount was raised, and the people were grateful that the pastor had shown them how easily they could meet their obligations if they had the willing spirit to do it."

In Place of Eight Entertainments

"My congregation was just able to keep itself afloat financially after meeting current expenses. The lecture-room was shabby and needed new furniture. I called the Pastor's Aid together and explained the situation. The members shook their heads wisely. It would take three hundred dollars, and as the average net proceeds of an entertainment amounted to only thirty-five dollars it would take at least eight entertainments to raise the money. These could hardly be crowded into a year, and besides, other needed improvements would have to wait in the mean time.

"In answer I said," writes this other Pennsylvania pastor: "'We shall raise this money in a day,' and proceeded to unfold my plan. I had secured six hundred envelopes of three different colors, about the size used for inclosing a calling card. I enlisted the service of the Pastor's Aid to write on each envelope as briefly as possible our purpose: 'For the decoration and refurnishing of the lecture-room.'

Each One Did a Part

"The following Sunday I announced in the Sunday-school what I proposed to do and created as much enthusiasm as I could in appealing for the help of every pupil. I explained that each would be given a pink envelope on

going out, that these envelopes were to be taken home and brought back the next Sunday with whatever offering each could make. I would know from the pink envelopes what the entire school gave, but I would not be able to tell what any one pupil gave. But I did want every one to have a part in it. A like announcement with the necessary adaptations was made at the church services. The men were given blue envelopes and the women white ones. I told them I wanted no response not freely given. None would know what any one gave unless he told it, for an envelope with a fifty-dollar bill inclosed would look just like another with one dollar. Criticism and grumbling were disarmed by the method and the highest dignity maintained. We came within twenty dollars of the sum asked for, and the Pastor's Aid was saved a lot of slavish work. The moral effect was even better, for the congregation learned that when all do their part there is no difficulty in making ends meet."

Making a Thank Offering

FOR various reasons incident to a year that was not over-prosperous the official board of a church hesitated to ask the people for the offering usually made at Thanksgiving time. They finally sent out the following invitation:

"Would you thank the Gracious Giver
For the blessings of the year?
For the mornings gold and blue,
For the darkness and the dew,
For the freshening winds that blew?
For the storm-clouds and the rain,
For the sunshine come again,
For, at last, the garnered grain?

"Fill the little bag we hand you,
Take the kindly thought we send you;
Do you find your pocket bare,
Not a cent to give or share?
Wait! you still may do your part;
Come with thankful, happy heart,
Gladly, though with empty hand;
God will see and understand."

A tiny bag should accompany the invitation, and a spear of grain thrust through a corner of the card would emphasize the harvest thought.

The Calendar Plan

THIS plan admits of much variety, and the version I give here is that sent by an Illinois contributor. It is known as the "Church Calendar." They first chose one lady to represent the year. Then there were twelve other ladies chosen, each to represent a month. Each Month then chose four Weeks. Each Week chose seven Days,

or as many more as she could get, old or young, to represent a day. Each Day, Week, Month, or Year pays ten cents a month. They selected the last Tuesday of each month as their "calendar day." On that date they all met to report and have a social time. Say it was September; the lady representing September, together with her Weeks and Days, formed a committee to furnish entertainment for all the others. It could be an evening social, an afternoon reception, a lawn party—anything they chose, and each Month might be as original as possible. Light refreshments were served and the committee was limited to three articles of food in order to keep down the expense, which was equally divided among the members of that month.

How the Dimes Were Collected

Each Week collected the monthly dues from each of her Days and paid it to her Month, and each Month handed it, at each meeting, to the Year, who was secretary and treasurer. The Year always made the announcement of the next Month's social. A little figuring will show what all this amounted to in a year in a financial way. Socially, I cannot tell you what it has done. They were half through their second year when they had a much larger membership than they had had the first year. They have also among their members

people who would not go inside of a church until they joined their calendar. The plan also keeps up a lively interest among the young people.

Other Ways to Work the Plan

Another method is to have the Year contribute, say, five dollars; each Month, one dollar each; each Week, fifty cents; each Day, twenty-five cents; each Hour, ten cents; each Minute, one cent, etc., bringing all the money in within a short time; special sums being fixed for holidays, etc. Another method is to have the Year give, say, one dollar; each Month, fifty cents; each Week, twenty-five cents; each Day, ten cents. These plans permit one to raise a certain sum quickly, say within a month, if necessary.

Gathering Pennies and Nickels

A PENNY is the same size to-day as it was not so long ago when we grown-ups were children, but somehow it seems to take more pennies to satisfy us. I have seen such wonderful things accomplished by simply the ingathering literally of the pennies that I want to point out some of these good ways.

A Mile of Pennies

To gather "A Mile of Pennies" is the stupendous task which is one of the most popular

ways of raising money for benevolent purposes. The plan is worked in different ways, as best suits local conditions. A mile of pennies means $844.80, as sixteen pennies cover one foot. Some societies have distributed three-foot lengths of adhesive plaster one inch in width, on which the pennies have been stuck, starting the strip with a bright new penny. Other societies have used the sealed slips, or

coin collectors, one foot long, in which the pennies are visible, which come for this purpose; while still others have used the ever-popular little bag. The prepared slips come in two colors, so that it is possible to carry out the contest plan which creates so much enthusiasm. Don't you need "A Mile of Pennies" in your society? Here is the idea explained in verse:

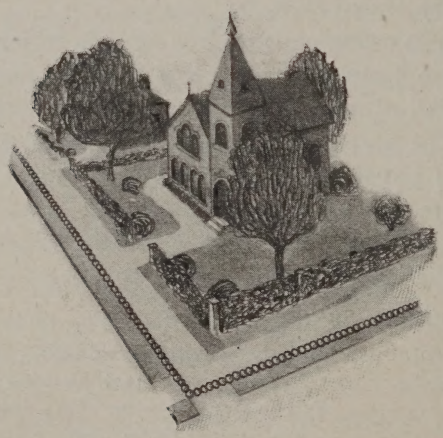
"Fifty-two hundred and eighty feet
Stretched out make just one mile,
And sixteen cents for every foot
Are enough to be worth while.

"It won't take long to get the cents
To fill a foot or two.
Then if you've sense to work right on
And others help you, too,

"You'll be surprised to find ere long
The task that seemed so great
Is done with ease, for foot by foot
Pennies accumulate."

Pennies to Go Around the Church

Instead of trying to cover a mile a woman's society in a Pennsylvania church decided to cover a line drawn around the church property, including the adjoining parsonage. They announced



through their church paper at what point the line would start, and reports were made from time to time in the paper how far the line had reached.

Any one interested could cover as many inches or as many feet as desired.

Paving With Pennies

A Wisconsin society used the little bag and sent out this advertisement on a dainty card to which a bag was fastened:

WANTED!

Workers to assist in paving a mile with pennies. For safekeeping each bag of paving pennies should be stored, when filled, with the

Paving Manager, MRS. JOHN BLANK.

Your Name in Pennies

Here is a good form of invitation for a pleasant evening's entertainment when the pennies are all to be brought in and you plan to have music and games and refreshments. Here is the reason for its success: it appeals to each guest individually, and Mr. John Johns can get in for nine cents, while Mr. William Williams will have to pay fifteen cents—for which he won't be to blame. It is really a good fault on his part. Or, a penny for each foot in height might be asked.

"For every letter in your name
A penny take and cast the same
Within this little pocket;
And if you would be very nice
Go through this operation twice,
Then quickly shut and lock it.

"Attend our Social on this date,
Where music fine and games of fate
Will entertain and please you;
Refreshments, too, will be on hand,
Served to you by our faithful band,
And that will surely cheer you."

Raising One Dollar per Member

A Ladies' Aid in Missouri wanted to raise a dollar per member. They had made coin cards like that shown in the illustration. The little rhyme that was printed on the left-hand side read:

"Five pennies make one nickel,
Two nickels make one dime;
Why! That is just as easy
As it is to make a rhyme.

"And ten dimes make one dollar,
It is simple as can be;
And each one can give something,
As you can plainly see

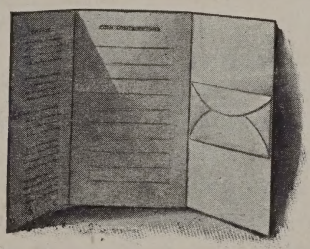
"Now, some pennies or a nickel
Or a dime is all I ask;
So if you will help a little
I shall soon complete my task.

"A dollar I must soon collect,
Is what the ladies say;
And ask of every one I meet
Just a bit to pay.

"So if you'll kindly give a coin
To help our cause along
We'll give to you our heartfelt thanks
And sing a joyful song."

Coin Carnival

The card served as an easy way to introduce the subject, and its novelty was attractive, so they met with a favorable response in soliciting ten cents from ten different people, who dropped the coins in the little envelope fastened to the right fold of the card. The cards should have



a program pencil attached for the contributors' names to be written on the lines provided. If you try this plan, when the collectors have gathered in their dollars it would be well to have a Coin Carnival, and make the informal entertainment by the ladies themselves a "feature"—one that will be remembered.

CHAPTER XV

METHODS NEW AND TRIED

THE best part of many of these stories is that each plan has been proved to be good. A method that may seem impracticable in one locality may be the very one that is needed to make the work of the pastor and members effective in another community and under other conditions.

Children in Church

The following plan by which the morning worship and the Sunday-school session are combined is working successfully in a Michigan church. Many other pastors are trying it with gratifying results, and the district superintendent says it is one of the most successful services he has seen in the State. The Sunday-school and congregation assemble in the auditorium at the regular hour of public worship. The first seven numbers of the program are kept as nearly within the space of half an hour as possible. The sermon takes the same time and the remainder of the program another half-hour.

ORDER OF MORNING WORSHIP

1. Organ voluntary.
2. Hymn.
3. Prayer.
4. Gloria or Doxology.
5. Scripture lesson.
6. Offering, and singing by the choir.
7. Notices.
8. Sermon.
9. Brief prayer.
10. Hymn.
11. Bible study.
12. Secretary's report.
13. Hymn.
14. Benediction.

Adults in Sunday-school

At the close of the sermon the pastor announces that the classes will assemble for Bible study immediately after the singing of the hymn (the tenth number on the program) and invites all the adults to remain through the service. The only difference between this and the usual Sunday-school is that there is no special opening service.

This plan holds the adults to the Sunday-school and secures their attention to Bible study, and it is impossible to develop a high type of religious life in a people who do not study the Word. It secures the attendance of the children at the preaching service, and we cannot estimate the

influence of public worship in the lives of children. The dominant note of the school is instruction; the public service is characterized by worship. It solves the problem of holding the boys and young men to the school and church. We all know that the boys leave the school because the men do, but one of the most marked features of this plan is the men's class. The plan also increases the attendance of the rural population. It maintains the family unit in worship. The family goes to church together, sits together, and returns home together. It brings the children under the direct influence and appeal of the pastor, and they never outgrow the service.

How a Pastor Solved the Music Question

There was some musical talent in the church, but there seemed to be no one on whom the minister could depend either to play the organ or to sing, and the people were not in a state financially to hire any one for the work. Added to this, there was more or less friction among the musicians in the church.

One Sunday the pastor announced that he was going to ask twelve different persons in the congregation to have full charge of the music for a month each during the next twelve months. The matter has been given a thorough trial and has been a success from the start. Each director

provides his own singers and organist and selects the music for every Sunday in his month.

There has never been a failure. It has stimulated a good-natured rivalry among the musicians and it has also materially increased the attendance at church service.

Fifty-two Days to Mend a Wall

A very good idea for the accomplishment of a definite work within a definite time was given only a year ago by a district superintendent to the Epworth Leagues on the charges under his care, at their autumn convention, based on the fifty-two days spent by Nehemiah in repairing the walls of Jerusalem. He appealed to the members to survey the walls of personal character and to do some specific work of repair within fifty-two days following the convention, and to unite, one and all—calling others into the service, as did Nehemiah after viewing the walls—to rebuild during the specified time the walls of their League life, by special evangelistic effort, the forming of mission study classes, an extension of their mercy and help and social work, and so on, ending the designated time by a rally Sunday and an evangelistic service.

This idea may easily be elaborated to apply personally to each member of the church by urging them to give individually special atten-

tion to repairing defects caused in their own lives through carelessness and indifference: that if they have not been in the habit of going to the church prayer-meeting they should make it a point to attend; that if they have neglected work in the Sunday-school they should take it up, and so on. If you should want to try this idea it might be well to start it on the tenth of November, that the fifty-two days may end with a watch-night service on the last night of the year. The people might be prepared to make some definite resolves at the beginning of the new year and be more enthusiastic for the special services usually held after the first of the year.

What to Do on "Review" Sunday

The stereopticon is becoming more and more popular every day in Sunday-school work, and, if properly handled, is a most valuable aid. With modern appurtenances the instrument may be used during the day as well as in the evening. While the room is not made perfectly dark the windows may easily be fitted with dark curtains which may be drawn in an instant, making it dark enough to get a good effect from the illustrations on the screen. It is necessary that both screen and instrument should be always in place that they may be quickly adjusted. The screen may be rolled up out of the way when not in use.

Sometimes it is wise to use it for the entire lesson period, but it is well to remember that a stereopticon will lose its interest after a while if used too long at any one time. Usually it is far better to show only two or three pictures as an introduction to the lesson study. But its best use may be secured on Review Sunday, when pictures on the last quarter's lessons will impress upon the child's mind facts that the teacher has been imparting from Sunday to Sunday. For Temperance Sunday charts showing the effect of alcohol on the human system will emphasize a truth more than word of mouth could do.

The Stereopticon at the Penny Concert

A number of schools have what they term the "Penny Concert," giving a stereopticon exhibition once a week, to which the parents and friends are invited, the admission being one penny—just enough to cover the cost of the light and the rental of the pictures used. When a lantern is bought the dealer will furnish a catalog of lectures, stories, travel talks, etc., for which he has slides. Some of the leading houses now rent slides on the International Sunday-school lessons, particularly for use on Review Sunday.

Why Fourteen Young Men Entered the Ministry

A pastor in Maryland has founded a new department of work which has not only changed the

character of the whole church, but which has also made it one of the largest in the city. It is nothing less than a system of Bible study on three evenings in the week with all the paraphernalia of college life, including class colors, banners, mottoes, and caps. The Freshman Class meets for an hour on Tuesday evening, the Junior on Thursday, and the Senior Class on Friday. The Bible is the chief text-book. He uses his own text-books as supplements. No denominational doctrines are taught—only the facts and the devotional spirit of the Bible. The course is free, only one dollar being charged for matriculation. All sessions open in October and close in June. Almost from the start he has had more than a hundred students each year, and perhaps a fourth of these are from other churches.

Besides the result named, fourteen of his young people have volunteered to enter college this autumn to prepare themselves for the ministry and the missionary field, and, also, half a dozen of his church officers preach as they may be called on, some of them nearly every Sunday, in other churches.

The Guild of the Round Table

After completing this course, when the students receive a diploma they enter what is called the Guild of the Round Table, which is the reading

of books on church history, missions, literature, and devotional life. Then they receive an additional seal on their diplomas. They must not borrow, but must buy these books as the beginning of a first-class library.

It takes time for the teaching, and the pastor does it all. It also takes time for the student, about twenty minutes a day if only the reading course, an hour if the examinations are taken.

Neither the pulpit nor the Sunday-school can do the work on Sunday of teaching the Bible as this age demands. It must be a distinct department of the church work. They call it the "Seminary," and the room that is used for it is called "Seminary Hall," which is adorned with life-size portraits of Luther, Knox, Wesley, Campbell, and other religious leaders.

Looking After Strangers

In one small town in Texas there are four churches, and they combined to remind the strangers in town of their presence by means of a weekly church paper called "The Welcome Stranger." One member from each church forms the editorial staff, and on the four pages are printed the news and announcements of each church and an invitation to any stranger to come and take part in the services. The four members go to the hotels and search the registers every

Saturday and leave in the office a paper addressed to each of the strangers. An extra supply is left for others who may come later. The clerks are very obliging in giving them out, and many strangers come to one or the other of the four churches. Each member of the staff has two helpers, and the three members of each church form "The Welcome Stranger Set." They go to the door at the close of the service and greet them, asking them to return; or if in Sunday-school they take them to some class, thus sparing the superintendent the trouble.

A Public Reminder

Many people do not go to church because they are so in the habit of not going that they simply don't think about it. Why should not a church service be kept before the public mind as well as some other public affairs? The distribution of blotters in some pretty color, with a smooth, glazed surface on one side showing an attractive picture of the church and giving the announcements of regular or special services and the assurance of good singing will be frequently handled reminders in public places.

A Pastor Needs Clerical Assistance

There is probably not a pastor in the land who would not like to have clerical assistance of one kind or another. The pastor of a large and

flourishing church is expected these days to have a clerk or, at least, a stenographer.

The pastor of the smaller church sometimes feels the same need, but there is, apparently, no way of satisfying it. He cannot afford to take anything from his salary, and most of these churches feel unable to appropriate even a small amount for such a purpose.

One Way to Help

One church found a way out. The deacons, trustees, and finance committee were called together for a conference. It was frankly stated that the pastor could accomplish more by having clerical assistance than by working alone; furthermore, it was shown that all the clerical work of the church could be done in the pastor's study. The committee was willing to indorse the plan, provided the money could be secured. Four representative business men gave permission to have their names used in connection with a letter which was sent out to the people; the men each contributed ten dollars to the fund to give it a start. This is a part of the letter:

"In order to enable our pastor to start and carry on such aggressive work as herein suggested, to properly set the plans before the people, to free himself from the care of details and devote adequate time to pastoral and other duties of

his calling and interest new people, it is desirable that there be placed at his disposal a fund of about three hundred dollars, to be known as the Clerical Fund, to be used for the purchase of stationery, printing, literature, postage, clerical assistance, and other items. This will preclude the necessity of drawing upon the church treasury, and it will enable the pastor to employ such helps and agencies as in other places have proved successful in building up churches. The fund will be administered by a committee consisting of the president of the Brotherhood, the treasurer of the Church, and the superintendent of the Sunday-school."

Accompanying each letter was an addressed return envelope for the gift. The people responded so heartily that a fund was assured and the work started. It has proved so helpful that it will be a permanent feature.

A Printing Press in the Study

This same problem of clerical assistance has been solved in another way that is adaptable to the country minister's work, and the New York clergyman who solved it says: "I commend heartily the use of a printing-press in the minister's study. Printing is costly, and, therefore, the country church does not, as a rule, make much use of it. Here is the minister's chance. Printing pays.

"How much must be invested in the minister's outfit? A new press, five by eight inches, may be bought for eighteen dollars. Seventeen dollars more is judiciously invested in type, etc. Thirty-five dollars in all will complete the outfit.

"And the uses? The minister's letter-heads and envelopes, cards for cataloging, etc. Card reminders, to be sent to absentee Bible-school students, may be prepared for five cents a hundred. So it is with cards of invitation to the Sunday services, reports of the finances, pastor's information cards, etc.

Let the Young Men Work

"Better yet, a company of young men may be interested to do the work as a printing committee. One such committee began to take in some job printing and with the proceeds gradually equipped a good job printery. Last year they did all the church printing, including a weekly church calendar, and from their surplus profits turned over to the church one hundred and eighty-seven dollars in cash."

"Church Day"

The women of a Maryland church have adopted a plan which they have found so helpful that others may like to hear of it. The first Wednesday of each month they call their "Church Day." It begins at eleven o'clock in one of the primary

class rooms, which is cozily arranged with desk, small tables, chairs, and piano. Here is held the Mission Study Class for half an hour, and this is immediately followed by the meeting of the Home and Foreign Missionary Society, lasting one hour. This meeting is as interesting as plenty of bright literature can make it, the program being prepared beforehand and faithfully carried out.

At one o'clock a luncheon, which is served in an adjoining class-room, is invitingly arranged with pretty table linen, flowers, or ferns. The luncheon is simple but abundant, consisting of oysters, relish, coffee, and rolls; or bouillon, sandwiches, and coffee; or baked beans, brown bread, and coffee. A committee of three prepares the luncheon, one member being appointed from each of the ladies' societies, a different committee acting each month. The older girls from the Sabbath-school assist in the serving. The price charged for this meal is ten cents, just enough to cover the actual cost. It is very popular. The social hour is enjoyable.

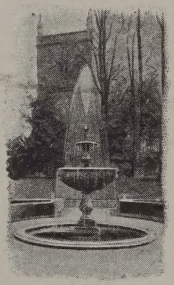
At two o'clock the Ladies' Aid Society meets in one room and the Young Ladies' Guild in another, each remaining as long as may be desired and adjourning without reference to the other. They have followed this all-day plan for a year and have found it a complete success.

Methods for Summer Work

A GOOD many church workers spend the winter getting warmed up, then cool off too suddenly in the summer. It is possible to be just as warmly enthusiastic in one's soul in the work in summer, but it does no harm to make one's church surroundings comfortable.

"Too Warm to Go to Church"

The familiar excuse, "Too warm to go to church," was met in a measure by an Indiana pastor who issued a folder designed to attract attendance by means of word pictures from Nature as shown in the Bible. The title was "Cooling Thoughts for Summer Days." Below the pictures in this chapter are some suggestions of the kind of spiritual food supplied for their "Morning Meditations" and "Evening Reveries." He felt that if he could help people to pleasant thoughts he could help them to be comfortable and forget summer externals; hence, the leaf-green color of the folder, with its offer of restful music and cooling thoughts. All of which was designed to reach the eye and heart of the tired office man



A Drink from Life's Fountain.
John 4 : 14.

and busy housewife debarred of green fields and shady nooks because of responsibilities nearer home. Besides the spiritual menu offered were terse sentences: "We refresh the body in summer; shall we neglect the soul?" "Summer temptations are slyest," etc. The effect of such religious inspiration was seen in the comment of both hearers and press, which appreciated the appropriateness of the plan. Moreover, it is in accord with the suggestive therapeutics of the Emmanuel Movement, which has quieted many nervous, disturbed souls by leading them to the "shadow of a great rock," and to the "green pastures and still waters." It is an echo of the rhetoric of the ancient prophet, as well as of that of the Greatest Prophet, whose parables have strengthened many hearts with the true "water of life," and with bread which "cometh down from Heaven."

Palm Tree Religion.
Psalms 92 : 12.

A Fountain in Sunday-school

Taking account of the fact that we are influenced by our surroundings, a Sunday-school connected with a prominent church in a Pennsylvania town placed a fountain in the center

of the school, the water spraying upward and gently falling over many beautiful flowers immediately surrounding the fountain. A number of large, lovely plants were placed near by. A mixed orchestra of twelve young men and women was seated beneath the plants and around the fountain. The sight of the flowers, plants, and flowing fountain, with the orchestra in the midst leading the singing, was an inspiration to all. Many young people attend that school because of its attractiveness.

Sunday-school Papers for Grown-Ups

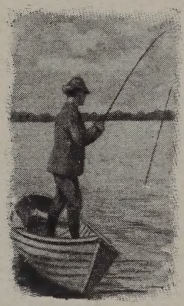
Did you ever notice how much the grown folks enjoy the Sunday-school papers the children bring home? The evening services of a suburban church were omitted during July and August. In the middle of July, while sitting on the porch one Sunday afternoon, the pastor's thoughts turned to several women of his congregation employed as maids in the homes of the town—members and regular attendants of his church, who were able to attend only the evening service. He got copies of the bright papers from Sunday-school, and sent a copy to each one of

A Mountain-top Visit.
Mark 9 : 2.

these young women. Because they appreciated it so much he had the papers delivered each Sunday afternoon until the Sunday evening service was resumed, and then continued to remember them with the papers at the evening service.

Summer Supplies for the Pulpit

The summer vacation question and the absence of all pastors from a suburban town at the same time has been solved by two Massachusetts churches of different denominations. They hold their services together during July and August, meeting each Sunday morning in one edifice and each Sunday evening in the other. One pastor is on duty for both congregations for the first month; the other pastor for the second month. The weekly prayer-meetings are also merged. The people are enthusiastic over the plan, and say that its advantages are: one pastor recreating while the other is on the field; two good audiences every Sunday instead of two small ones; one well-attended prayer-meeting weekly, and Christian fellowship promoted.



The Best Kind of Fishing.
Mark 1 : 16, 17.

A Pastime Well Used

A pastor in Missouri formed a more intimate and helpful acquaintance with the young men of his church by taking an interest in swimming. In his city there are large, well-regulated, and convenient natatoriums. In conversation about these swimming pools he proposed to a few of the young men to go some evening. The few increased to a dozen, and then to a score. The swimming was greatly enjoyed several evenings during the summer. The pastor was treated with all due courtesy and respect, and in going and coming from the natatorium the young men would talk freely of their everyday life and give their views on many social problems, which a pastor often finds it difficult to obtain from his young men. This pastime was the means of holding the interest of these young men in church and Sunday-school all summer, when church activity was almost suspended.

Results of Right Planting.
Psalms 92 : 13.

A Choir Camp

A Pennsylvania choir consists of boys ranging in age from eight to sixteen, and girls from

fourteen to eighteen. They held a "Choir Camp" last summer. To do this small gifts of money were contributed by members of the church, and each one in the choir denied himself or herself some luxury or did extra work, so that each member had five dollars. This paid all expenses. One of the prettiest parts of the country, about twenty miles from town, was chosen for the camp. The rector accompanied the choir, taking charge of the boys, and one of the ladies of the church chaperoned the girls. After a week's outing they all came home rosy and brown and happy, and have given such inspiration to the music of the church that the congregation wants to give them in future a two-weeks' camp instead of one week.

Lessons from the Clouds.
Job 35 : 5.

A Story-tellers' Club

As training in memory work and expression, and getting them accustomed to hearing their own voices, why not interest your young people in weekly porch meetings of "A Story-tellers' Club" during the summer? Some of the more backward young people, fond of reading, might be brought out in this way.

CHAPTER XVI

SIXTY-TWO LITTLE SUGGESTIONS FOR BIG THINGS

IN the olden times when the worshipers came to the New England meeting-house each one brought a candle, and the house was lighted in proportion to the number of attendants. At a young people's meeting one Sunday evening the lights were put out and the leader announced that as each one took part in the service a candle would be lighted. As the participation made the room more and more luminous a deep impression was made upon the young people, who saw what it meant to "let *your* light so shine."

To Make a Church Grow

Formula for a church's growth: "Daily prayer used without fail. Constant gymnastic exercises in pulling together. Large tablespoonful, morning, noon and night, of the milk of human kindness. Big dose, weekly, of common sense, taken by both minister and people, accompanied by a systematic closing of the eyes to the failings of others."

Sermon Quiz

A Christian Endeavor Society has at its devotional meeting a ten-minute quiz on the morning sermon. This brings church attendants to the meeting of the society, and by discussion the sermon becomes fixed in the mind.

Catching Strangers

A plan successfully tried by a Young People's Society is to have a young woman and a young man assigned to each aisle of the church to watch for strangers and greet them at the close of the service.

A Social for Attendance

To increase the attendance at one Junior Christian Endeavor a social is offered each month either to the boys or to the girls, whichever has had the larger percentage present.

Silver Offering

An influential couple well beloved in a certain church celebrated their silver wedding in the church. The guests brought silver offerings in money which was given to the church; the husband entertaining the guests at supper.

Training Leaders

The difficulty in securing leaders for meetings may be overcome by training the younger ones to announce the songs, call for prayers, etc., while an experienced speaker talks on the topic.

New Histories

Why not ask your city librarian to recommend missionary books to the patrons of the library? They tell of the things that are making history.

Reading Prayers

To help young people in becoming used to taking part in a service, let all who take part during one season of prayer read, as a prayer, a verse from a hymn or from the Psalms.

Lending Automobiles

The "Lend-a-Car" Guild is a new organization idea and a practical one. It is composed of church members who own automobiles. For one day in each week each of the cars in turn is placed at the rector's service, to be used in any way he sees best, as an aid to him in his work, or for the comfort and convenience of members who might be helped by its use.

Notes on Sermons

A minister offered a prize to the boy or girl in the congregation who at the end of a given time sent in the best list of notes on the sermons. Result: regular attendance and close attention.

A Policeman on Temperance

Can you imagine any temperance lecturer who could make more of an impression on a boy's

mind than a Christian policeman, telling what he knows of the harm that has come through intemperance?

Rose "Shower"

Instead of that bouquet for the sick member of your society why not do as a group of King's Daughters did and send a rose "shower"? Each one who took part left an order with a certain florist to send with her card of greeting one beautiful rose. The roses were all sent at one time, but each one meant a personal remembrance.

The King's Errand Boys

Magazines after having been read may be left by members of the congregation on a table in the church vestibule, for other members first, then for mission reading-rooms. The service of "The King's Errand Boys" may be enlisted for this work, gathering magazines in certain districts one Saturday a month.

A Church Pin

Wouldn't it be a good thing to have a church pin, that the acquaintance of attendants might be furthered and a visitor distinguished from a member in a large city church?

Daffodils for All

It was a pleasant little welcome when the officers of an Epworth League stood in the church vestibule and gave a daffodil to each one coming

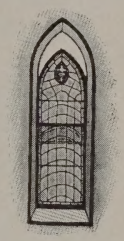
to the Easter service. It made the visitors feel that other pleasant things might occur in that church.

The Masterpiece of Literature

The Bible presented, taught, and studied as the grandest masterpiece of literature in the world will increase interest in the Bible study class.

Fresh Air as an Inducement

The pastor who advertises fresh air as one of the good things he has to dispense at his church is likely to have a good Sunday night congregation. To have a Committee on Ventilation wouldn't be a bad idea, but it would have to be made up of men of the best judgment and the most common sense.



Making Mothers Acquainted

A teacher arranged a social for her class and their mothers, each girl entertaining in some way. Many of the mothers were strangers.

Lonely Old Ladies

A class of chivalrous young men made it their duty to look after the lonely old ladies of the town, calling on them occasionally, and offering their escort to the Sunday morning service when unpleasant weather or slippery pavements seemed to present opportunities for extending such courtesies.

A Commendable Chain Method

In a young people's meeting the leader, after speaking, called on a member by name. This member, when he had finished, called on another. He, when he had finished, picked out another. So it went on in an endless chain. Every one was finally called upon, and because of the novelty of the method responded willingly. It was the best meeting in spirit and sincerity they had had for months.

New Books Every Year

Every year at a denominational conference one wealthy layman offers to purchase for every minister of the conference any two books he selects. His offer is gladly accepted, and many a minister is helped in his work by the books.

"A Time to Laugh"

At one social each person was required to repeat the first "piece" he remembered speaking at school.

Singing the Gospel

A Young People's Evening Chorus just to sing the Gospel Hymns will attract parents and friends.

A "Leaderless" Meeting

A certain young people's society enjoyed a "leaderless" meeting. The president went early and wrote the program on the blackboard. Every one obeyed the blackboard's directions.

Balancing a Church Debt

When raising a church debt use a large pair of scales. On one side place a block of wood representing the debt. Have other and smaller blocks to represent different sums of money. As the pledges are made, place on the other side of the scales the blocks to correspond with the amount secured. It will be interesting to see the debt begin to move, and to see it finally balanced.

Comforts for the Sick

One Ladies' Aid Society has stocked a closet with articles needed by the sick: hot water and ice-bags, air-cushions, invalids' drinking-glasses, bedding, etc.; and lends them to the sick poor. This has proved so helpful that they hope to engage a nurse to give her time to this work and search out cases of sickness and distress.

A Church Rest-room

The church women of a small town in a farming community keep open a rest-room where women from the country can come in to rest and care for their children. On market day a luncheon is served.

Visiting the Friendless

One Sunday a month the young girls of a city church spend the afternoon at the Home for the Friendless. The result is a good influence over the older girls of the home.

Remember "Boarding-house People"

Some good souls make it a point to say to one or two forlorn "boarding-house people" each Sunday after service: "Come home to dinner with us." They know that Sunday afternoon is the homesick time, and a few hours in a real home give strength and courage for the week.

The Assistant Pastor

In a large Western church drawing hundreds of strangers to its services an invitation is extended every Sabbath to any one in trouble to meet the "Assistant Pastor" in the church on any weekday between one and two o'clock. The "Assistant Pastor" in this case is a woman of refinement and deeply sympathetic heart. Many avail themselves of the privilege and go away helped.

Thousand-dollar Notches

In a movement to raise one hundred thousand dollars for an orphan asylum in a New Jersey town a flag was started up a staff on a prominent corner. It was started by the presentation of twenty thousand dollars and was to be raised one

notch every time a thousand dollars was raised. Why not such a flag on your church corner?

A Calling Map

A changeable map would be a unique gift for your pastor. Draw a map of the town on sign-painters' muslin. Write the name of each family of the congregation on one of the pin tags used to mark dry goods. Fasten the tags on the map according to the residences of families. When a family moves the tag may be moved and the map kept up to date. A glance shows all the families in one neighborhood.

Tennis Court Friendships

A tennis court and croquet ground near the parsonage, given by a society of the church, has been a help socially to a suburban congregation. The pastor has had a chance to form friendships with the young people, and that has brought them more regularly with their friends to the church service.

A Class Camp

A young woman teacher vanquished some unkind feeling in her class by providing a week's camp for her boys in care of a Young Men's

Christian Association secretary. She lived near enough to visit the camp each day. A better class spirit resulted.

Well Spent Dimes

At an expense of ten cents a week postal cards were purchased by a Lookout Committee and sent to young people who did not belong to the Young People's Society, calling their attention to the next Sunday's service and urging them to be present. The committee met all such persons when they came and gave them a cordial welcome.

Good Class Name

The "Drop-in Class" is the appropriate name of a Young Men's Christian Association class that numbers weekly about a hundred and fifty men.

Plants in Memoriam

Potted plants in memory of those "gone on before" formed the decorations for one altar at Easter. What comfort the Resurrection story brought!

Singing in Schoolhouses

One young people's society, instead of falling off in attendance in summer, forms itself into a choir and goes on foot or by team to the schoolhouses of the farming districts to hold services.

Basket Suppers

Twice during the heated term the members of one Ladies' Aid plan to hold their monthly

meeting in a park, taking with them a basket supper.

Finding Summer Positions

A pastor's wife in a manufacturing town had many calls one summer from young girls to help them secure positions at the seashore as waitresses and chambermaids. Would it not be a good plan for a Young People's Church Society to secure the names of reputable boarding-house keepers in various resorts near by who would be likely to want as helpers these young women who would enjoy the outing?

Sunday Evening Tea

Why don't you have "Twilight Tea" in your church for the young people away from home? The time between afternoon and evening service has often a gloomy hour. Let them help in preparing the coffee and sandwiches, and feel that their church is a home to them.

Picnicking for Plants

By spending a small sum for seeds the church might receive in return flowers for its usual Sunday bouquet, besides many for flower missions: Let each class in the Sunday-school be

allowed to choose the flower it would like to cultivate, and be given the seeds with instructions as to their care. Some of the classes might have a picnic party to get fern roots early in the year and transplant them to shady corners of their gardens. The hardier species will furnish beautiful green for the flowers grown by the other classes.

Helping the Deaf to Hear

Did you ever realize how helpful a hymn-board is to the deaf? If your church hasn't one, here is a good bit of work for the Young People's Society. A pew fitted with "acousticons" is also a good work; also the transmission of the sermon by telephone from the church to an invalid's room.

Inspirational Singers

If a pastor who has no choir will get twenty good singers to practise the hymns, and then distribute these singers throughout the congregation, their hearty singing will be an inspiration to the whole congregation.

Lawn Concerts

A series of lawn concerts in the evenings will be attractive. A porch for a platform where the orchestra players may be seated, a piano by door or window, and chairs on the lawn are essentials. There will be fresh enjoyment in even well-known music and songs under such conditions.

Reading Matter for Travelers

The Strangers' Committee of a Christian Endeavor provided reading-matter for the railroad station at a junction where passengers were often obliged to wait.

Book Repairing Committee

Noticing how quickly a book falls to pieces as soon as a page becomes loosened, a committee was appointed by an Epworth League to keep the hymn-books and Bibles in repair.

A Better Name for the "Poor Fund"

A "Fellowship Fund" is the practical work of a Mercy and Help Department to help the needy over hard places.

Recess for Strangers

In one devotional meeting there is a ten-minute recess to greet strangers and in a friendly way tell them about the Society.

To Send to Foreign Missionaries

Seeds of vegetables and flowers in the home gardens would often be acceptable to missionaries. Why not look into this form of gift?

Cups as Admittance Fees

One sherbet-cup was the admission to a social where the young people wanted glasses in which to serve refreshments. Similar admissions might be knives, forks, spoons, plates, cups, and saucers; one article being brought to each social.

A Cheerful Church

The object of one social committee was to see that the church interior itself was kept cheerful and attractive. This meant study of light, ventilation, decoration, etc.

The Children's Tent

During the summer vacation months one Sunday-school put up a tent on the lawn every Saturday afternoon, where the children of all ages met for a good time socially.

Letter Service

A letter service will vary the devotional meeting of your Young People's Society, with messages on the topic from former members.

Knowing the Children Helps

A pastor who made it his duty to be able to call all the children by name in the homes of his church found that it helped in his work.

Meeting Your Neighbors

At a social try forming groups of all the people living on a given street. Some don't know their neighbors.

A Temporary Roll

One Young People's Society has a separate membership roll for students and other young people temporarily in the city. This makes them feel that the duties and privileges of the society are really theirs.

Monday "Off"

Monday is usually the minister's "day off." Is it always his wife's "day off"? One in Ohio tells me that they take Monday as a "family day," and relax as much as possible. She says there are many exceptions to their "Monday for ourselves," but that they get a great deal of help and pleasure even from planning for it.

Planting the Church Lawn

Here is an Arbor Day hint. A plan that has been successful in an English town is this: Have each class bring and plant a tree, shrub, rose-bush, or bit of vine in the churchyard each spring. One year the boys bring trees and shrubs, the girls rose-bushes and vines; the next year vice versa. This gives them a personal interest in beautifying the church property.

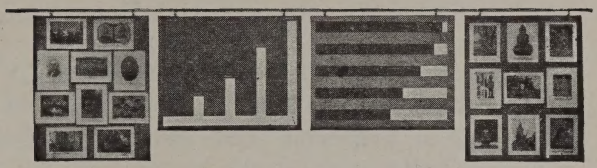
A Message from the Belfry

At ten o'clock one Easter morning the choir of a church in a Massachusetts town sang an Easter anthem from the belfry—the hour when the streets were filled with people going to places of worship. The happy faces of the singers; the throng in the streets, with eager, upturned faces, listening to the glorious song; and over all the bright sun, made a memorable scene.

To give pleasure to so many is well worth the effort, and a surpliced choir standing aloft singing their joyous song, amid Easter lilies and with chimes softly playing, cannot help making a picture that will please the eye and carry a message that will thrill the soul of him who hears.

Getting "Tracts" Read

The word "tract" has somehow taken to itself in many minds the meaning of a form of literature that is not to be read if one can help it, and no doubt there are hundreds of people who are nominally Christian who never read religious literature of any sort. For a "junior" meeting it is a good plan to give each child a tract from a well-selected group, with the understanding that at the next meeting the child is to report the number of persons who have read the tract, and give their names. Some little reward may be given to all who secure a certain number of readers during the week. No one will refuse to read a tract for a little boy or girl, and what is so read may be helpful in preparing a church and community for a revival, for "a little child shall lead them." The plan enlists the active coöperation of the children; reaches every class in the community; and is the quickest way of making announcements, disseminating missionary and temperance information, and of pointing duties to non-churchgoers.



CHAPTER XVII

MAKING MISSIONARY MEETINGS ATTRACTIVE

WE don't want to be simply "good"; we want to be good for something. And the better we are the more we shall want to make the most of ourselves, that our lives may be at their best. Not only because then we shall be happiest, but also because we shall then be most useful and helpful to those whose lives we touch. So when we come together for our social hours let us try to plan them so that we shall take away at least one new fact with us, or let us open our minds and eyes so that, perhaps, what we have known before may be looked at in a new way, or let us try to quicken our wits or refresh our memories or awaken our imaginations.

I have some little stories I want to tell you of how these things have been done by the young people of the churches: if you try them, and on the

way home one of the boys shall say to the one with whom he is walking, "Say, that was worth going to, wasn't it?" then you have succeeded.

Getting Out of Ruts

There is nothing that broadens one so much as travel, and if we can't get out of the ruts of our daily routine, we can get out of the ruts of our minds. So my first story—and it is a true one—is about a company of young people near Boston, who, under the guidance of their pastor's wife, thought they would see the world. Here is a reproduction of their itinerary for one winter:

AROUND THE WORLD IN FIVE MONTHS
Special Excursion Ticket
Good for
One First-class Passage
On the Airship "Imagination."
Trips on All Lines of the Grand Mission Board Railroad
Personally Conducted by the
Chih Jen Yung Club.

December 3: The Empire of the Sultan.
December 17: 'Way Down in Dixie.
January 7: The Land of the Trident.
January 21: An American City.
February 4: The Empire of the Mikado.
February 18: The Land of the Braves.
March 4: The Dark Continent.
March 18: "The Land of the Cotton and the Corn."
April 1: New Mexico—via Utah
April 15: The Celestial Empire.

There was something new to learn each evening about each one of these countries or sections of the country. There is more attractive and interesting material on these subjects available for young people than I could tell you about if I should take this whole chapter for it. These young people traveled fast. Others would do it more slowly, perhaps, and would take more time for a closer study. You will see that they divided their interest between their own and foreign lands. They took up a New Mexico program in this way:

1. A Journey to New Mexico.
2. The Everyday Life of the People.
3. A Glimpse at the Work in New Mexico.
4. Short Stops at Our Mission Stations.
5. Toothbrushes and Industrial Schools.

For an evening's entertainment in "The Land of the Braves" they gave a bow-and-arrow drill, and, in addition, "The Modern Hiawatha"—a story in verse to be used with tableaux.

A New Use for Old Games

I want to tell you of a novel evening they had one winter. They put on their program, "Guest Night, an African Palaver," the last word meaning "a great talk." They thought it would be interesting to have a progressive-game evening, making every game a missionary one relating

to Africa. Some one suggested that each girl should look over all the games she could find; make a note of the most popular ones, and then try to change them into African games, bringing in the results of her efforts at the next meeting of the Club. The first game brought in consisted of one hundred and twenty cards, or thirty books, to be played like Authors. They called it "Who, Where, and What in Africa." The list began with Saint Mark, who is supposed to have first taken Christianity to Africa. Then followed some early church fathers and several explorers, ending with a number of pioneer missionaries to Africa regardless of denominations. For instance, the first two cards of one book represented Robert and Mary Moffat, who laid the foundations of Christianity in South Africa, the third card represented Bechuanaland, where they worked, and the fourth card was a quotation from Robert Moffat: "A medical missionary is a missionary and a half."

Visiting Mission Stations

Another game is called "A Trip to Africa." The board was covered with squares an inch and three-quarters in size. There were seventy-two squares in all, and on each was written some place or incident connected with a trip to Africa. All the players start at 1—Boston. They visit

all the stations of their Mission Board in Africa, sailing for home from number 72. For variety there are lucky and unlucky squares. If a player reaches a square marked "Land Sighted" or "A Tepoia Ride," he may move ahead five squares, but a fog or an attack of African fever sends him back three.

Many other arrangements of games are possible. "Sliced Animals" may be made, using the animals native to Africa. There is the fish-pond game with a Zulu kraal for a pond and black button-mould men to be rescued. The game of tenpins could represent ten African problems to be thrown down—the slave trade for one. The alphabet game is a good one, giving out a list of the names of twenty missionaries and a set of letters from which to make the names. "Scrambled Names," too, may be given out to be arranged in their right order.

The Object of Missionary Games

These games are simply to impress, by much recalling and repetition, the names of persons and places associated with the knowledge already acquired, and to arouse interest on the part of guests as to what all these names stand for. They are not intended as a means of imparting information, or to take the place of a more serious study of missions.

How Another Group of Girls "Traveled"

But here is another true story. This time about New Jersey girls—a Queen Esther Circle—whose pastor's wife is enlisting their interest in home missions. They believe in keeping in touch with what is going on, and at one of their meetings, as conditions in the Arctic regions were then being very much talked of, they, too, decided to take an imaginary trip from the parsonage to see what was being done religiously for the Eskimos of Alaska. One of their members had a postcard reflecting machine, so they started on a trip across the country, stopping by picture in as many States as possible on their way to the Pacific coast, seeing Niagara and Yellowstone Park and getting glimpses in California and Washington.

As the different girls told about the Eskimos —how they look and how they live, of their worship of the aurora, their superstitions, and their way of traveling with sledges and dogs—the talks were illustrated by pictures cut from leaflets and magazines and by Alaskan postcards used in the reflecting lantern. Next they showed by picture and story what their own Church was doing to help; then, skirting the Arctic Circle by means of a map shown on the screen, they came over to Greenland and spoke of the first missionary to the Eskimos in 1741; then down to Labrador to

see Doctor Grenfell's work in that cold country, then back, by the airship on the screen, to listen to one of his charming stories about the wonderful little Eskimo boy who came to the World's Fair. Such a trip is possible for any society, as the pictures and story material are obtainable through the different denominational boards and from magazine articles.

It is Just Like Being in China

Here are two ways of making the mission study classes more attractive. Every one likes pictures. Do you know a stereoscope by name? Well, they used to be fashionable on tables in parlors that were used once a week, and you were allowed to look at pictures through them on Sundays if you were good. But now we think of them as having a distinctly educational value. The best modern pictures for the stereoscope are not made on the old principle, but a new idea is carried out so that human figures and objects stand out individually and separately from the background. It is just like looking through a window on the scene itself. It is possible to get in this form many striking and beautiful illustrations of all the different geograph-

ical parts of the Bible and of all lands studied in mission classes, and when you recall some part of China or Korea which you have studied in this way you will not associate it with the room in which you studied, but will seem actually to have seen the place in its own country, with all its surroundings, so clearly that you will remember it a long time. What you read will be more strongly impressed by the scenes, and others may be interested who could not possibly be persuaded to come for just the readings and talks alone.

Studying Nationalities

The immigration question is also coming up for discussion in these classes. The matter is a serious one, and a little fun at the close of the series of study hours will be welcome to the class and furnish entertainment for their friends. It is possible to obtain sets of postcards on which are the flags and coats-of-arms of each nation. These make a good guessing game with the names concealed, and also serve as souvenirs. Interesting postcards of Ellis Island and the foreign quarters of New York City may be secured from the missionary boards. These, too, may be used as souvenirs. A supper made up of viands peculiar to the nations from which these strangers come to our shores would also be enjoyed.

Japanese Souvenirs

Miniature Japanese parasols were favors at a girls' missionary meeting. Inside were tightly rolled slips of paper containing conundrums. Questions on the subject for the evening might be substituted.

Around the World in Sixty Minutes

If you want to raise money for your work and the people are not sufficiently interested to enjoy a missionary evening, here is a good way to entertain. I am telling you about it because the work in different countries recalls this pleasant evening's entertainment. It was a social hour and had been given the title: "Around the World in Sixty Minutes."

The postcards of one country or section of a country were placed upon a small table, also, as a guide, a printed sign with the name of the country pictured on the cards. Each table was surrounded by a circle of chairs. A director or lecturer sat at the table to explain the cards and call attention to interesting points. After the different groups had been at one table for a given number of minutes a bell was rung and all except the person in charge moved on to the next table.

There were twelve tables, representing India, Italy, France, Switzerland, Germany, England,

Scotland and Ireland, Canada, California, Colorado, Yellowstone Park, and the Jamestown Exposition.

Each table was presided over by some one who had visited the place represented by the postcards. As refreshments after so long a journey ice cream and cake were daintily served. Perhaps there may not be so many in every church who have traveled abroad, but the idea could be adapted to a tour of American cities.

Picture Missionary Tours

The idea is thoroughly adaptable to missionary meetings, as instructive pictures of scenes in different countries of the Orient, designed especially for help in mission study, may be purchased for a penny each.

Picturesque postcards of China, Japan, and other countries may be obtained through resident missionaries, and from the different Mission Boards. As it is now possible to purchase postage coupons at six cents each, which the missionary can have cashed for five cents, the money may be sent in advance when asking such a favor. The price of the postals, I understand, is about the same as in this country, but the return postage and the tax on the busy worker's time required for their purchase and the writing of a descriptive letter should not be forgotten.

Mission Study Is a Study of Countries

Mission study classes are growing steadily in numbers, and it seems to me that if they would present their newly acquired knowledge in attractive form to the members of the church as a whole they could awaken additional interest. I have in mind, too, Women's Home and Foreign Missionary Societies. People who do not know are likely to think that mission study is "dry," but when the different mission stations are taken up for study—the people, their characteristics and customs; the political and commercial standing of the country; its need of missions; what has been done, and what must be done—the subject becomes as interesting as any autobiography or book of travel.

It Helps to Tell Your Story in Pictures

Social evenings arranged by these classes would win the interest at least of outsiders. People will always go where there is something to see, and any one who saw the missionary exhibition of the American Baptist Missionary Union at the Jamestown Exposition, and the wonderful missionary exhibit at the World's Sunday-School Convention in Washington, will understand how possible it is to put missionary knowledge in attractive form. A home-made exhibit is possible, and any local society can develop this idea. Most of the

exhibits are mounted on sheets of gray cardboard, which cost ten cents a sheet at retail.

How to Make an Exhibit

First of all, find out from the headquarters of your missionary society when your Church first contributed to missions and the amount, then how the fund has grown every twenty-five years up to the present time, picturing it all by strips of white paper on gray cardboard, like one of the charts shown at the head of this chapter, underneath each column writing the year, and at the top of each column the amount given, making the height of the columns proportionate. The statistical charts shown are fictitious and are illustrated simply to give the idea. After this it is well to go on step by step illustrating the progress of the work in pictures. Secure from missionary magazines (which every society should have) pictures of the offices and officers of the society; then proceed to the home work, taking one chart for the first missionary enterprise in this country; others for the schools and their work among the colored people, the mountaineers, the Indians; then picture the work in Alaska and the Philippines.

Then have a chart of missionaries about to sail for foreign fields, following this with the progress of the work in different countries—Japan, China, India, Africa, and so on; showing the workers, both

missionary and native, the schools, the pupils, the medical side as shown in hospitals, pictures of the idols worshiped and what the people are to be saved from, the first church built, etc.

Feature the Work and the Workers

This exhibit idea can be applied to the dissemination of denominational knowledge at home. I am sorry to say it, but I fear that some of our young people would not recognize the pictures of the heads of their church if they should see them, and that many of them do not know what their church papers look like. There is a chance here for a display of the portraits of prominent officials and workers, notable spots in the history of the church at home, the denominational schools, the literature of the church that is supplied by its publishing houses inexpensively for the furtherance of certain lines of work: work among children, among boys and young men, tithing, etc. Other charts on "This Year's Work" would be interesting, showing pictures of new churches built, the number of new members, offerings of the whole church to various benevolences, etc.

The collection and preparation of this material to exhibit in a social way will be educative also to the study classes. Loan exhibits may often be had from denominational headquarters on payment of a nominal sum and expressage.

What a Missionary Program Should Be

The program for a missionary entertainment should possess three characteristics—originality, interest, and instruction in missionary matters. The last mentioned is often disregarded through fear of making the program prosy. But if these public missionary meetings are to be productive of any awakened missionary interest this point of information must not be omitted.

The following plan, which was recently carried out by one society, successfully combined all requirements:

It had been announced that a program would be given at the social, but nothing more was known. So a ripple of surprise ran through the assemblage when a procession of queerly attired women entered and ranged themselves in a semicircle, assuming various peculiar postures.

It was then announced that these ladies, who had just (supposedly) arrived from various countries, had kindly consented to tell the audience something of themselves. It was also stated that the names of the countries from which they had come would not be mentioned, but were to be guessed by the audience.

Each woman in turn then gave a realistic sketch of her life, drawing vivid word pictures, and cleverly emphasizing the great good brought

to her by a certain missionary (who was spoken of by name).

After the last speaker had finished, the president called upon the audience to name the countries represented. They were those about which the missionary society had been studying during the preceding year. The costumes were made of inexpensive materials and were carefully copied from illustrations. The facts for the talks were gleaned from the missionary magazines, the only work required being to change them into the form of an entertaining autobiography.

Missionary Social Ideas

Of a less formal nature are a few socials that have been given by some women's missionary societies. It is always well to have something to get people acquainted. The most simple form of this is to present each one with a card on which is written:

"My name is_____ What is yours?"

asking each one present to fill it out as he enters and pin it on, the card having been tied with a bow of the society's colors in which a pin is hidden.

A guessing game for a social or at a private house may be arranged by placing on placards around the room the names of well-known missionaries. Then make up questions that will

require the names of the missionaries for answers, as:

A sign of cool weather? Answer: Hale.

Of course, each society would have to arrange its own list.

A Cup Social

A Home Mission Society has adopted the idea of the "Cup Social." At each meeting each member (and sometimes there are more than forty present) brings a cup of rice, sugar, jelly, etc. All that is brought is taken care of by one member, and when the society wants to send supplies to some one in need the staples are at hand.

For a Children's Mission Band

A Rainbow Party marked the close of a special period of systematic giving in one children's mission band. The children had been giving two cents a week, putting it into the mite-box, and marking off the date on a calendar. At each monthly meeting there was given to each child who had remembered his or her systematic giving for the month a bit of ribbon, from one inch to seven inches in length, of one of the colors of the rainbow. When the time came for the "party," each child who had "remembered" had a com-

plete rainbow badge by putting together the seven bits of ribbon.

The room in which the party was held was profusely decorated with festoons of crepe paper in rainbow hues, and at the door was the proverbial "pot of gold," said to be found at the end of the rainbow. Into that went the contributions from older friends.

With the fruit lemonade were served little round cakes with rainbow colors in the frosting.

It would be pretty at such a time to use the old cobweb idea and crisscross string in the seven colors all over the room. Let the children follow the strings to the hidden ends, where they will find little jugs or barrels to hold their pennies for the next year.

A Mission Orphan's Party

In a church where the people were not at all enthusiastic about missions, the young women's society had undertaken the support of a little girl in an orphanage in Porto Rico, agreeing to pay thirty dollars a year for this purpose, but when the year was nearly gone and the treasury was still empty they hardly knew what to do.

Then the president suggested a Birthday Party. Of course, the orphan couldn't be present, but, as the secretary remarked, "that makes no difference. George Washington never attends the func-

tions given in his honor nowadays!" So the church parlors were decorated with flags and greenery and a general invitation to the party was given out.

No admission fee was charged, but the girls made it generally understood that presents were always permissible at a birthday party, and a small wicker basket was attached to a pillar with bright ribbons, while above it hung a large hollow heart inscribed: "The orphan's heart longs for the love and care which is the right of every child born into the world," and at the top was a slot through which coins could be slipped. Above all was a photograph of the child herself, a lovely Castilian face, with great, long-lashed eyes and a firm, determined little mouth.

A Successful Appeal for Sympathy

After a good program there was a short descriptive sketch of Porto Rico, another of the Orphanage, and a talk about the little girl who had run the streets half-clothed and half-starved until rescued by the mission workers, who were depending on the promise made that funds for her support would be provided.

Then a letter was read which was written by the child herself, a quaint, naïve little epistle, telling how hard she was trying to be good and to learn, and voicing in broken phrases the joy she

felt in belonging to somebody and in knowing there was somebody in the States who loved her.

After the last wafer was eaten and the teacups had been put away, the girls gathered up the offerings. There were a number of gifts, and from the heart was poured money enough to meet the obligation of the year and pay the postage on the other gifts.

An Initial Donation

The Lenten season offers a good opportunity for church societies which aid their denominational hospitals and orphanages at that time to prepare for an offering to be made at Easter. There is scarcely anything that can be used in a home that will not be acceptable to these institutions.

An afternoon a week might be set apart for the reception, either at the church or in a private house, of such things as the members wish to send. To add interest to these occasions and insure a variety of articles, a novel plan is to ask each member to bring a donation of some useful article beginning with the initial of the last name. The families whose names begin with "J" might furnish the jellies for the sick, or jackets for the children of the orphanage; the "S's" are always numerous and might be counted upon for sheets, soap, starch, or, perhaps, stockings; the "B's"

might supply brooms, buttons, and many other things, and have a splendid chance to send good reading matter. If a little hint is dropped the "M's" will probably be glad to give money to provide for deficiencies.

Exchanging Ideas

A missionary society which was sadly lacking in interest determined that something must be done to create enthusiasm. It was decided to invite similar societies in its own and all other denominations in the town to be its guests at a meeting and a tea. The visiting societies came prepared to tell of the work they were doing and how they were doing it. This free exchange of ideas, and the new lines of work suggested, awakened fresh life in the latent society and proved beneficial to all concerned.

CHAPTER XVIII

KEEPING THE BOYS IN THE CHURCH

I HAVE on my desk as I write a very helpful leaflet called "Fishers of Boys," and the author says that perhaps the reason why we have no record of the calling by Christ of the women who followed Him is that when they saw how He loved the children they followed Him of their own accord. But if He called them it would seem that He must have said, "Come ye after me and I will make you to become fishers of the children—fishers of the boys," for that kind of fishing was woman's work then, and it is largely woman's work now. Would it were more the work of the men!

The ways mentioned here are offered only as suggestions which may be helpful to pastors—on whose shoulders is usually thrown the responsibility for keeping the boys in the church—and to all other workers who love the boys.

Where Men Lead Boys Will Follow

A superintendent at an annual church meeting deplored the lack of older boys in the Sunday-school. He said their absence was due to the fact that the men of the church never went to Sunday-school to show the boys that it was a place for them to attend when they were out of the intermediate classes. His argument was that the men, and the men alone, could save the boy for the Sunday-school. The next Sunday the men of that church came out in large numbers and sat in the main room during the devotional exercises, after which they went to their own conference room. The boys, who, up to this time had been out of sight among a host of bonnets, were placed on a separate aisle with the men.

If a father reading this page is concerned when his boy wants to "cut" Sunday-school, let me tell him that the best thing he can do next Sunday is to get into a class of men between that boy and the door. One of the slogans carried in the parade of the men's Bible classes at the World's Sunday-school Convention in Washington was: "Train up a child in the way he should go and go that way yourself." If there are as many men behind him as there are little boys ahead of him the big boy won't see the necessity for immediate graduation. Parents do not realize what the Sunday-

school is—a place to study the Bible, the guide-book, in all its relations to life to-day, and that the guide-book instructions need to be followed to the end of the journey.

What a Boy Needs

The sad part of it is that the boy's leaving is at a time when he needs the help of religion more than ever before. Now, if ever, he is in need of some tangible power to help him in his fight with "the world, the flesh, and the devil"—something "tangible." A girl may derive a great deal from the sentimental side of religion, whereas a boy wants to get down to the practical side. But that great leader of young men, Henry Drummond, once said that you couldn't expect a boy to have his grandmother's religion. The boy has as much right to a boy's kind of religion as he has to baseball.

Dim Lights in Churches: Bright Lights in Saloons

Mr. Eugene C. Foster, in an article in one of the Sunday-school magazines, says he went recently to a large city church to speak at a week-night meeting. Ten minutes before the hour for opening, the church was still closed. When the sexton came he lighted a feeble light in the hallway and some more feeble lights in the meeting-room. After the people gathered they started to discuss some of the "problems" of that Sunday-school.

On the opposite corner was a saloon, brilliantly lighted, open six days a week, eighteen hours a day, and ready to open for the other day if the law permitted. "But that's the saloon man's business!" "Exactly, and he's attending to it." And Mr. Foster says that if it isn't the church's business to be as attractive in a right way as the saloon is in a wrong way, then he doesn't know what its business is.

Work for Every Boy

There is work in the church which the boy can do. One pastor who had a very successful club of boys said that he had found a definite work for every boy, but it was the hardest thing he ever had to think out. Let him fold the calendars and pass them at the door, let him usher, turn on the lights, ring the bell, see that every stranger has a hymn book, and many other similar things. He can save some of the time, strength, and postage of the pastor by a personal messenger service, and there is no one a boy would be more proud to have ask him to help, although he probably wouldn't own it for the world.

Boys' Organizations

Boys' clubs are growing up all over the country. If you haven't one in your church why not look into the Boys' Brigade, the Knights of King Arthur, The Boy Scouts, and other similar

boy society movements, send for their literature and see what they mean? When a boy gets a B. B. or a K. O. K. A. button on his coat it means something to him. A boy loves the "gang" idea, and if there is a secret in it, so much the better. If a number of the members of a boys' club are musical, form them into a glee club at the service of any other organization that wants them. In churches where these boys' clubs exist the boys feel rightfully that they are a part of the working force of the church. Money spent to further work among boys is not wasted. As one boy said: "If they do anything for you during the week they do it because they like you."

No Room "Too Good" for Boys

It was objected in one church that the vestry was "too good" for the boys to meet in. A wise member stepped forward and said something to the effect that they knew where they could find a new carpet, but they didn't know where they could find the boys if they let them go. If the vestry is "too good" for the boys, let them speedily wear it to the condition where it is not too good for their use.

Trust Him with Refreshments

Church entertainments are only family gatherings where we can all afford to be charitable as to

any lapses of decorum on the part of the younger members. It does take great faith to trust a boy with the refreshments. But the only way to keep a boy from running away with the cake and ice cream may be to ask him to help serve. Then he will have as much pride as any one in seeing that it "goes around." If the strain is too great, cut up a special plate and tell the boy to help himself. How much better is a boy than a cake!

Getting at the Unchurched

A plan worked by a New Hampshire pastor among older men may be adapted to work among boys. The young men of the congregation furnished the pastor with a list of all the young men they could think of between seventeen and thirty who were not identified with any of the town's churches. To these young men the pastor sent a personal letter of invitation to be his guests at a banquet and concert. On the night set the church was filled with young men whom he thought he could not reach.

A Warm Service for Cold Days

As a suggestion for special work, last February on a bitterly cold day the Knights of King Arthur of a Philadelphia suburb built a blazing fire in the snow, conveniently near to a spot where the trolleymen were permitted to stop, and served hot coffee to them and to the drivers of all depart-

ment-store and other wagons that came that way. "Those are boys worth having," said one of the motormen. The boys worked in relays until midnight under the supervision of older men.

An Eye for Moving Vans

Form the boys of the church into a "Watchers' League," their duty being to report to the pastor and Sunday-school superintendent as soon as they see a moving van in front of a house that has been vacant. A button denoting membership is all that is needed, and an occasional meeting may be used incidentally for warning them to "watch out" on other lines.

A Twenty-five Mile Tramp

Ten of the members of a boys' church organization, headed by their enthusiastic pastor as leader, formed a tramping party for the purpose of exploring the woods surrounding their own township. Their route in a direct line covered twenty-five miles and they spent three delightful days in traversing it, camping at night in some pleasant spot wherever they chanced to be, each taking his turn as cook for his companions. They returned from this outing elated and happy, saturated with woodcraft and topo-

graphical knowledge, and with a highly exalted opinion of one member in particular of the ministerial profession.

A Newsboys' Choir

The pastor of an aristocratic church in a Western city has taken forty newsboys into his choir and a block of pews has been surrendered to the boys who will come regularly. The effect upon the people is as noticeably beneficial as upon the boys themselves.

Celebrating Boys' Day

"Boys' Day" was celebrated in a New York Sunday-school with songs and recitations of a patriotic nature. The feature of the day was the decorations. Rolled flags were hung inconspicuously close to the ceiling, and at the singing of the first line of "America" pins were withdrawn by invisible threads, thus releasing all the flags at once and transforming the room into an elaborately decorated place.

Gathering Harvest Decorations

A minister in the sunny South takes his church boys on frequent outings—fishing parties, nut gatherings, and so on. When the autumn comes the boys prepare for the Harvest Festival, giving the program in place of a Sunday evening service. While afield they have laid up the fruits of their trips and have for decoration cotton in the boll

partially open, pine cones and cedar boughs, with nuts to make the mottoes.

The Pride of Responsibility

What about the church grounds in a small town? Can you interest your class of boys in tree-planting, vine-growing, and keeping the grass-plot trimly clipped? If you can it will mean personal pride and responsibility in the protection of the church property.

Penny Concerts

The Penny Concert opens another good way to use boys. The program may be so arranged that they may have part in it. Some firms make a specialty of providing material for these great patriotic, religious, and educational entertainments for children, which, in the large cities, compete successfully with the moving-picture shows. In some places only a penny is charged —they are never free. In the great Metropolitan Temple in New York two cents is paid by each child; five cents by the adult who accompanies the child. The Temple is filled to its eleven-hundred capacity every Tuesday night when these concerts are given.

The Barber-shop Reading-table

Let the boys keep a reading-table supplied in the town's barber-shop. They can do this with magazines and church papers after the members have finished with them. To call for them on a certain date is another "something to do."

Studying the Arts and Crafts

A minister in New Mexico has had a boys' club for a year called "The Knights of the Round Table." These boys, from fourteen to eighteen, meet one evening a week and make all sorts of things from wood, brass, and leather. A burnt-wood sign, candlesticks, and other things were made for use around the church.

Keeping Up with Current Events

Several suggestions have come to me along the line of a Boys' Congress. In one form of this each boy represents a given State on which he must read up and bring interesting bits of news to each meeting, giving it in response to the State roll-call. Also when his turn comes he must prepare a sketch of the life of some great man of that State. At each annual election a "Speaker of the House" is elected, and each boy is designated as "The member from New York," or "The member from Oklahoma," etc. Failure to bring a report from his State or to address the presiding officer as "Mr. Speaker" is finable. After an hour in

current events another hour is spent in games and fun and refreshments that boys like. Another form is that of the Senate. Social and moral questions are introduced for debate. The club has also basket-ball and track teams.

World Views for Boys

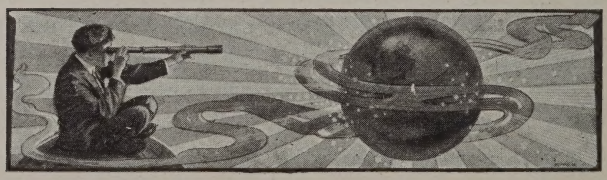
Missions for boys? Never! Oh, yes! But instead of calling them "missions" we call them "World Views for Boys." Missions are likely to interest boys if presented rightly, because they mean a wide view of places and things. For several years a class of Philadelphia boys has been circumnavigating the globe through missions. As one of the fathers said: "Why, they are learning geography, history, and everything!" They began with a country a month and sent their gifts to a definite work, for a people under our own flag, or in a particular country: the Indians, or the people of the Philippines; then China, Africa, and so on.

As Thrilling as Lion-Hunting Stories

A live missionary from a foreign country can tell a group of boys stories of adventure that will be as soul-thrilling as the best hunting-a-lion story you can find. This class gave a reception to one of these missionaries and long will they remember him, for he was thoughtful enough to bring a curio for each boy. They had invited

their mothers, and they were all thrilled as he told of tours by motor-cycle, bicycle, or on foot, by any way he could, to tell the good news to a people eager to hear. He told of his experience as guest of regular banditti, with as many bolos as men stuck in the ground outside the place where he spent the night, and how in the morning they all followed him single file, each with his bolo. The boys will never forget how he told them that "to be a missionary you need a strong pair of legs and a great love for the Lord Jesus Christ." These boys worked out their business-meeting problem in an original way. All, of course, wanted to hear the story part, so they put the business last, for they said: "Whoever is late deserves to miss the best part."

The boy who is in the church needs to be kept there. He needs a boy's religion if only we know how to give it to him; the form may not be meditation but service.



CHAPTER XIX

A CHAT WITH THE GIRL WHO WORKS FOR HER CHURCH

MANY of you do work for your church, I know; but if you happen to be a girl who doesn't, and you start to read this page, just let me tell you, girlie, that it will do you as much good as you may do to others to interest yourself in some part of it, for it is worth while to do something definite for others. And that is what the work of the church is—for "others." It is the only way we can do it unto Him, and the church hasn't any hands but yours and mine; and even if we should not see a successful result for our labor it means an experience that broadens, and a deepening of the charity which we all need toward one another.

One Talent We All May Have

If you happen to be the head of a committee you will find it a good thing if you are endowed with executive ability, which some one has humorously defined as "ability to plan work for other people to do," because the more people you can interest to do something the greater, as a rule,

will be your success in whatever you undertake. But if you don't have to plan the work, but are just a helper, let me whisper the secret of a popularity that will make you a worker in demand. There is one talent that every one of us has, if we haven't anything else, and that is the talent of "dependableness." And if you only knew it, Mrs. R., who is planning a little social or missionary or money-making affair, will say to herself: "I'll ask Miss B. to help, because I know I can depend on her." But there, I won't "sermonize" any longer. We must talk about some practical ways.

A Five-Pointed Contest

A CONNECTICUT girl, who is a clergyman's daughter, has sent me an interesting account of a most successful contest. She says: "Last October the society was divided into two sections, the Reds and the Blues, each side having a leader. The contest was to last until February, with the understanding that the losing side was to give a social to the winning side. The five points that appear under the picture on the opposite page counted in this contest.

"The rules were:

"1. The color having the largest number at prayer-meetings and business meetings will gain a mark.

"2. The color obtaining the most new members will receive a mark.

"3. If the number of the two colors are equal, each will receive a mark.

"4. To be counted as present the members must be present not later than half an hour after the time for the meeting to begin.

"5. Dues must be reported monthly.

"Two charts were made and hung in the chapel: one tied with red ribbon, the other with blue. The side gaining a point made a mark on its chart with a colored pencil corresponding to the color of its side.

The Good the Contest Did

"As soon as the contest began great interest was aroused. The sides kept along quite evenly. How the contest was to end was not known until the last business meeting, but the result was that the two sections came out even, amid great excitement. A committee from each side was chosen to plan for the social. This contest was a benefit to our society along several lines. Nineteen new members were added. Before the contest many of our members were careless about paying their dues. During the contest all but two of the members paid, and we believe that the most of us have formed the habit of paying. Our Sunday evening devotional meetings and our Wednesday evening prayer-meetings had been very well attended, but during the contest the attendance was nearly doubled. At first some of the members came for the sake of being counted, but the meetings became so interesting that they soon came for the sake of the meeting. While the meetings increased in number they also increased in quality, and some who had kept their talents buried in a napkin began to use them to their own good and the help of others.

"Other churches, hearing of the success of this contest, are trying the same plan with similar results.

"The contest was a friendly one, and we began by singing,

> 'Blest be the tie that binds
> Our hearts in Christian love.'

And with the same feeling of love for one another that we had at the beginning we ended by singing heartily the same hymn, expressing the good will of the contesting sides."

Losing "That Lonesome Feeling"

HERE is another interesting story. Doesn't it suggest, girls, that your society might arrange a special welcome to the new teachers in your town who may be eager to make friends? The teachers in our public schools constitute a class of citizens that ordinarily receive little social recognition. They go to their work every morning, return to their homes or boarding-places every evening, and put in many

spare hours in study and preparation for the classes of the next day. And many a teacher becomes a recluse for no other cause than this very social isolation. School-teachers, as a rule, are Christians, and are helping to mold and shape the moral as well as the intellectual lives of the children. This being true, the church should do something practical to encourage these teachers, and should help the new ones in a town to lose "that lonesome feeling." They do not need patronage, but they will appreciate the expressed interest and helpful friendships that make life's work easier.

Introduction Tags

A number of the members in one church society decided to give a reception to all the teachers in the city, the superintendent, and the school board. Plans were laid to hold this reception early in the month of September at the opening of the school session.

As many of the teachers were strangers in the city and did not know each other, each one was tagged on entering the reception-room. On each tag the name and local address of the teacher were written, together with her native State. These tags were pinned on by means of a dainty ribbon, so that everybody could see who her neighbor was.

At the entrance of the reception-room the president of the society and his wife, with the pastor and his wife, received the teachers as they came in. The superintendent of schools stood at the door to introduce the new teachers.

At one end of the room had been arranged a bank of flowers, which served as a screen, behind which an orchestra furnished music during the entire evening. This flower screen was made of asparagus and tamarisk branches fastened into a net, backed by a piece of green cambric. Tucked in all over the front were asters, and large bouquets of asters were arranged on stands at each end of the screen.

Tributes to Teachers

During the evening the pastor spoke a few formal words of welcome, which were responded to by the superintendent of schools. One of the business men, who had five children in the schools, paid a splendid tribute to the teachers. A social hour with refreshments followed.

The reception was a great success in every way. The school-teachers became acquainted with each other. They were recognized in a public way, and there was a warm place in their hearts for the church which gave the reception. The tags which they left, as they departed for home, placed their local addresses in the pastor's hands.

What Some Girls Are Doing

DO you attend a church where "notices" are read? You do? Why not interest the other girls in your Sunday-school class in publishing a folder that will let the members know about the meetings, social gatherings, and so on, without distracting their thoughts from worship? That is what one class of girls does. They meet each week to address their live little paper to those members who want to keep in touch with what is going on, but cannot always attend the service at which the paper is distributed.

Enjoying Teaching Because They Know How

The girls of a Sunday-school class often refused the request of the superintendent to help by teaching other classes because they felt incompetent. Their teacher solved the problem by organizing the class for teacher-training. She took them through a study course, dropping meanwhile the regular lesson.

Another way to help the superintendent is to form a class on which he can depend for two substitutes weekly. A week ahead of the other classes study the lesson you will teach the next Sunday.

Providing a Soloist

Realizing that music is one of the attractions of a church service, a class of Massachusetts girls has decided that its work should be to pay for the church music. These girls are busy workers, but their motto is "Labor Conquers All." Their objects are: To help the church; to increase the class membership, and to promote social life. They pay the soloist and have contributed to the new organ fund.

Supplying Flowers for the Church

Providing flowers each week for the church is only one of a number of things a society of girls is doing in New York. These girls surely carry cheer with the flowers to the sick, as they are known as "The Sunny-side Set" and

believe that "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Sending Comforts to the Sick

A large Sunday-school class in Georgia has taken up the beautiful work of ministering to the sick and poor as opportunities are brought to it by the deaconess of the church. She is often called to the sick where not a sheet or a pillow-covering can be found. Articles of this kind are supplied by the class. Seventy-five cents of the offering each week is given to the school; the remainder is used in class work. Ask your deaconess how you can help.

Furnishing a Sunday-school Room

Surely a work worth while is that of furnishing a Sunday-school room with maps to make the lessons interesting, curtains to soften the light or turn compartments into private rooms, and carpets to quiet the sound of many noisy feet. This is what a Colorado class of girls is doing. Restful

indeed are good pictures on bare walls, and illustrations of Christ in art, and of Bible countries, peoples, and customs, are inspiring and educative. Look around your Sunday-school room, girls, and see what you can do.

Calling on the Lonely

How could the "Friendship" class of girls in a Kentucky church have chosen a more appropriate name when one of the good works they do is to look after young girls who leave their rural homes to come to the city to work, and have to live in boarding-houses of the cheapest sort? The "Friendship" girls stand with open arms and loving hearts to welcome any of these girls who will come and be one of them. And they call for them, too, and bring them to the class, and visit them if they are sick and lonely.

Offering a Ready Service

A class of girls in Maine is organized under the name of "The Volunteers," and stands ready to

help the pastor through a messenger service, doing errands of mercy, or any other work to which the members may be called. Their motto is "Here am I; send me."

Such a class might be "The Servo Club"; the motto, "I serve." Another appropriate motto might be "*Non ministrar, sed ministrare*"—"Not to be ministered unto, but to minister."

Visiting Home Department Mothers

After getting the little ones ready for Sunday-school many mothers have neither time nor strength to attend and take up the church work they would like to do. These mothers would enjoy the visits of the girls who make it their work to distribute the Home Department leaflets, and stop for a pleasant social chat on the way the lessons are being taught and new methods the school has adopted. The cheerful visitor makes the mother feel that she actually has a part in the life of the school.

CHAPTER XX

WHAT MINISTERS' WIVES ARE DOING

HOW I have enjoyed reading the letters from more than one hundred ministers' wives that came to me recently telling me of the work they are accomplishing, and I want them to tell you about it in this chapter just as they have told me. After I finished the reading it seemed that I could almost sum up the work that many of them are doing for young people in two words—the "club idea."

That is, most of the work which they have done among the young girls of the church seemed to begin by organizing for social intercourse, and this brought the girls together and made them acquainted; then followed something to do, for even merry-hearted girls tire of just "a good time," and this turned their attention to the needs and conditions of others not so fortunate as themselves; then some form of hand-work followed to aid them; afterward, to get at the cause of certain conditions and see what could be done to help, or for self-improvement, that the girls might be more useful, some line of study was taken up. Sometimes there developed sewing societies, sometimes literary clubs, domestic science classes, mission study classes, health talks, athletics, and so on. One minister's wife found it a good plan to give the first weekly meeting in the month to missions, the second to temperance, the third to sewing, the fourth to a literary and social program, closing each meeting with twenty minutes' work in athletics.

This Wife's "Talent" Was Her Home

The experience this one tells was in a former parish: "We had a newly-settled field just opening up in the Northwest, and as I had two young children and no help in the house I could do little in a public way to help my husband in his work.

So we tried to be just as hospitable as we could in our home life. Our town had a saloon for every hundred inhabitants, and was a railroad junction for a large area. Sometimes the people would come in to wait for a train, to rest a while or just for a chat, or would stay over night if they needed to get an early start or could not get to their own homes. If they came near meal time we always gave them a cordial invitation to remain, and we tried, and successfully, to make every one feel at home at any time. The young men with only boarding-houses for homes were especially welcome. So much entertaining was not always easy nor convenient, but I know it brought good results. We tried to make up for the plain fare by the real interest we took in our guests. As they felt our interest in them they began to take more interest in the church organization, and in three years we built a three-thousand-dollar church, which meant a great deal from people of their financial ability. Entertaining in the home is one way of helping."

One Who Sees Her Opportunities

She doesn't want anybody to be sorry for her, she says, because she is a minister's wife and has to do so much of her husband's work, for which she doesn't get any pay. She feels that "no woman has as much scope for purely womanly

work as the minister's helpmeet." Her experience has been among a class of people who, though really in need of teaching, wanted it distinctly understood that they were as good as anybody else, if not better. Oh, the tact needed to help! She also found her work confined to the home, and when her husband had to be away serving another church on his charge she would ask two of the girls of the church to spend the nights with her. She let the girls themselves arrange who should come. Pie was not a feature of her family menu, but she had observed that it figured three times a day in the homes of these girls, and that it was mostly sour stewed fruit between biscuit-dough crust. So she made it her religious duty to have pie that was pie, with a minimum of puff-paste crust and a maximum of delicious filling, when the girls came. Then she showed them how she made bread that was not overloaded with soda, letting the girls help her in the kitchen when she was baking or preparing meals, and it was a happy day when they began to say: "Mrs. R., people say they would rather eat bread and butter at your house than cake and pie anywhere else."

Helping Girls Raise Their Standards

Another thing she wanted to help them grow out of was the questionable way they had of

entertaining themselves at their social affairs in the town by playing kissing games. So, when they all came together she provided simple, popular games for the evenings and incidentally taught them how they should conduct themselves with the young men and gave them reasons why. Before they left after these evenings together she always had a Scripture reading and a simple prayer.

You see she had a cooking school, a school of manners and morals, and a prayer-meeting without the girls being conscious of it. They never knew she was trying to do them good, and the impressions were more lasting, since they were absorbed naturally.

Another Who is "Given to Hospitality"

"Our church is noted for its activities among men, women, and children. As a pastor's wife I find splendid opportunity 'to help.' First, to try to know each one personally and to learn something of his or her home and business life. To our young women (especially those away from home) an invitation to tea or an invitation to a social function of my 'Woman's Society' helps wonderfully. Groups of young people are entertained at our home in the evenings with music, games, and simple refreshments. Larger socials are planned in the vestry of the church; young

men are invited to 'drop in' with the pastor on his way home from an evening service, for a half-hour chat and a glass of lemonade or a cup of cocoa; older women are invited to 'come have a cup of tea at five o'clock.' Great attention is given to making our missionary meetings bright, helpful, and educational—pictures, curios, music, and refreshments all being needed.

One of Her Fields a Mothers' Meeting

"Special interest during the past year has been taken in our 'Mothers' Society.' Many of these mothers live in small rooms in the tenement district. Better accommodations were needed to meet larger demands, and a cheerless room in the church was available. An assistant gifted with artistic taste gave time and thought to the furnishing. The walls were painted a delicate green, with dark green burlap base; pictures in brown tints were hung on the walls; a Brussels rug of a good pattern was placed on the floor, and Mission furniture, including a large, roomy settle and comfortable rockers, was placed about the room. A linen centrepiece was placed on the table, and soft, creamy curtains were draped from the high windows. With the gaslight to soften it, the effect was a surprise to all.

"Here the mothers meet every two weeks. They bring their babies and young children.

If these are restless, a caretaker is provided. All meetings are of some practical good. Physicians come to tell of the care of the body, to talk on the great question of social purity and how mothers should talk to their children on these subjects, the proper cooking of simple foods, how to keep the boys and girls off the street, proper books to read, companions, and other helpful subjects. At the close of each meeting a cup of cocoa and some delicious cake are daintily served and a little social intercourse is enjoyed. Twice a year—at Christmastime and in June—a social time is prepared with music and readings, and on these occasions ice cream is served. For this year's program, among other things, we hope to have the superintendent of a hospital tell how to care for sick children. We are planning a series of lessons in simple cookery, and question-box meetings. One hundred and fifteen mothers are on our roll."

Entertaining the Choir

"I invited our choir to come and have their usual practice at the parsonage," said a minister's wife near Chicago, and, of course, they all came. After the rehearsal I asked them to come to the dining-room and we had coffee, cake, and wafers. Then a large dish of trick nuts was passed around, and, upon opening the shells, there were found

small slips of paper with such questions as: How can the choir help the pastor? Does singing in the choir benefit the voice? What should be the attitude of the choir socially toward the other young people? What is your opinion regarding cantata practice for the winter season? How can choir members be induced to come to rehearsal on time? These and many more subjects were discussed, and the ribbon-tied nutshells were taken home as souvenirs of a happy evening spent in the parsonage."

These Two Remembered the "Shut-Ins"

"AS a minister's wife I have found that my 'Shut-in Committee' is a very successful factor in the work of a church numbering about five hundred in a town of seven thousand. Last autumn, in my attempt to visit regularly all the 'shut-ins' of the congregation, I asked for helpers from a class of elderly women of the Adult Department of the Sunday-school. Four volunteered to help with the visiting. We then met and made up our list of names which at our first meeting numbered about twenty. These we divided among ourselves, and the names of those who for any reason the helpers thought best that I should visit, were given to me; to each of the other women were given the names of those to

whom she was most conveniently situated, or with whom she was best acquainted. We arranged to meet once each month, and during the interim each was to visit those assigned to her, and at the meeting to report her visits.

Keeping "Shut-Ins" in Touch with the Church

"Our purpose was to keep those who were absolutely unable to attend church services—either from any infirmity of their own or of any member of their families—in touch with the church and its work. Our visits were informal, social, and friendly, and in them we talked of what the church, the Sunday-school, and other organizations within the church were doing: increase of membership and attendance; what the minister preached about, or anything that would make them feel that we were interested in the success of the Lord's work and expected them to be. Our work was done quietly and unostentatiously—no public notice nor announcements were made of it.

A Good Calling Plan

"We secured the love and respect of the aged and afflicted, and won back as regular attendants some of their relatives and friends, who had lost interest in the church because they thought the church had no interest in those who could not be present and help as they once did; we also won

some who had always been indifferent. Lately, to give the work more definiteness and to make it more thorough and efficacious, I have enlisted the wives of the deacons, and eight of them will help me do the visiting. I keep an oversight and direct this work, and if any woman is unable to do her allotment of work in any month I find another who can do it, supplying her with names and addresses. No woman visits the home that she visited the previous month unless there be some special reason for it."

A Plan that Meant Continual Remembrance

The special work of another has also been among the shut-ins, but this one has worked alone. She placed on a list all of the old people of the church and any other aged ones she found needing her. And her plan is a good one, for in many churches provision is made for the remembrance of old folks once a year, perhaps, and then a big time is made over them. Afterward, aside from their own family and faithful pastoral calls, they are often forgotten. Her plan kept them continually in remembrance. On New Year's she called on each one and left a greeting; on Saint Valentine's Day she found time to send sweet words and sweet comforts as well to her old friends; on Saint Patrick's the remembrance was a bit of green: to lovely and gracious old Grand-

ma D., a maidenhair fern; to cross old Mr. Y., who lived by himself, a green-covered market-basket with some home cooking in it. On the first of April she didn't forget a little joke for each one, and on May first she sent a May basket, the flowers having been gathered in the woods by the church children. In June it was a bunch of roses, and in July a huge firecracker made at home and filled with candy. In August it was a big fan; in September a visit again and a pretty autumn flower left for each one; in October an autumn-leaf novelty painted by an invalid whom she paid for her work. November brought its golden opportunity to give whatever it was known each one needed without sweet charity's bitter sting. In December—well, that is the month of joy, and they were remembered abundantly with good things. Each birthday was an event—cakes, flowers, candles, etc.—and on her own birthday she received as many of them as could come and they had a good time together. You say, How could she afford it? Her "tenth" did it all.

CHAPTER XXI

HELPFUL SUGGESTIONS FOR SUNDAY-SCHOOL WORKERS

ONE Sunday-school teacher has gathered into her class a number of business girls alone in the city. She rents a pew in the church and says: "Girls, our class-pew is number sixteen. It will please me if you use it freely." As a result, several of the girls have become regular attendants.

The presence of the teacher herself in the pew in such a case is an incentive to attendance, and her personality will be an inspiration for better living. Her tacit endorsement of the word preached will also be impressive.

Buying State Stars

In raising money to buy a flag for the Sunday-school the superintendent sold the stars or States.

The thirteen original ones went at a higher price than the others. Each member was especially anxious to buy the State in which he or some of his relatives were born.

Saturday Afternoon Outings

A class of business girls and their teacher arranged for a series of Saturday afternoon outings, by car, by boat, and on foot, during the spring and summer. They were splendid opportunities for the teacher to get acquainted with their every-day habits of thought, and many occasions for helpfulness were found.

Cradle Roll Reception

During the days of June the babies whose names were on the cradle roll of the Sunday-school were invited with their mothers to an afternoon reception given outdoors by the wife of an Illinois minister.

A Star-spangled Banner

In a Sunday-school trying to raise a hundred dollars for a children's hospital, a banner marked off in one hundred squares was hung in full view. Whenever a dollar was raised a red star appeared in one of the squares.

Teaching the Lesson to Teachers

The teaching of the Sunday-school lesson to teachers is solved in our church by the pastor's teaching the lesson for half an hour after the

weekly prayer-meeting. The teachers are thus prepared to present the best points of the lesson.

Rainy Weather Members

Our Sunday-school class club made it a condition of membership that each girl should dress appropriately and attend church in stormy weather unless sick.

A Librarian's Bulletin Board

The librarian of a Sunday-school made an attractive bulletin-board and posted each Sunday the names of books of special interest in connection with the lesson, and announcements of current events in the church or in the religious world.

An Outdoor Gymnasium

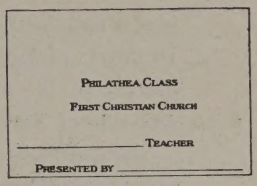
Our Sunday-school made a social park of a large vacant lot—that is, fitted up an outdoor gymnasium. Lighted at nights, a small charge was made. The experience was cheering, healthful, and profitable in many ways.

A Lesson Picture Hunt

Why not plan to let that lively class of boys illustrate the lesson by selected pictures from Sunday to Sunday? Go through your lessons for three months in advance, tell the boys what you will need to illustrate them and let them help you hunt for the pictures.

A Philathea Calling Card

"Philathea" girls will find this card helpful in introducing themselves to strangers.


PHILATHEA CLASS
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
_____ TEACHER
PRESENTED BY _____

Birth-year Pennies

A class of either boys or girls may use this plan: to save each penny they receive bearing the year of their birth. These are all turned into a common treasury, and twice a year half of the amount goes to some charity and the remainder for new books to be used by all.

Invitations to Business Women

The young women of the Bible classes of a Southern city have united to interest all department-store saleswomen in one or another of their classes. Once a month a union social meeting is held.

Three Working Groups on a Lesson

Each scholar should have a part in the preparation and presentation of the Sunday-school lesson. A class of girls about sixteen years of age was divided into three groups. To the first group was assigned the geographical work—the giving of items of interest pertaining to the geography of the localities mentioned. To the second group was assigned the historical setting and contemporary history. To the third group was

given the illustrative work. The ease with which Biblical pictures may be obtained made this branch of the work very interesting.

A Sunday-school News Sheet

The publishing of a single sheet once a month, giving the attendance, special announcements, and comments generally on the work of the Sunday-school, will interest alike pupils and non-attending parents.

Ribbon Markers for Bibles

A class of little girls were interested in the use of their own Bibles by a series of baby-ribbon book-marks of various colors. For a Bible brought four consecutive Sundays a ribbon was presented.

A Summer-time Hint

An electric fan and a progressive teacher kept the attendance at one Sunday-school class as good in summer as in winter.

Marking Their Own Attendance

A novel way for little Sunday-school children to mark their own attendance is to have their names printed in large letters upon a sheet of white cardboard ruled like any school record. Have this tacked to the wall so that the smallest child can easily reach the top of it. As each child enters give him a gilt paper star already gummed, and let him stick it upon the square

opposite his name under the correct date. The little tots will sacrifice much for an unbroken line of stars.

Cradle Roll Stationery

A good idea for a Cradle Roll superintendent is to cut pictures of babies' heads from magazine articles and advertisements and use them on her stationery in writing to the mothers, and on any invitations she may have occasion to send out. The pretty little faces may brighten also the roll of names hanging in the Beginners' Room.

Relay Race Reviews

Conduct the Sunday-school review as a relay race. Let each one who takes part have one or more lessons according as the distance may be gauged.

Stories of Living Authors

One wide-awake teacher got her boys interested in the good books in the library by telling them of the lives of the authors.

Choosing Characters for Study

In a class of girls the work is planned out for six months at the teacher's home. An incident or character is given to each girl for special study that she may give the description to the other girls as an interesting story.

Supporting a Mission Child

If your class members are responsible for the support of a child on a foreign field, at say fifteen dollars a year, they will at once awaken to missions.

The First Fifteen Minutes

Give the opening exercises of the Sunday-school over to a class of boys one Sunday, then to a class of girls, sometimes to the teachers. Let them plan the first fifteen minutes.

Who Was Your First Missionary?

Do the children in your Sunday-school know the names of the missionaries of your denomination in foreign fields? Who was the first missionary sent out by your church? These hints would develop into interesting stories for days of special offerings to the cause.

Quieting Music

When teaching new songs to little children familiarize them with the tune by using it first as quieting music.

Whistling in Place of an Orchestra

There was no orchestra in the Sunday-school and no leader of special skill. The singing was consequently often dull. The suggestion was made that the boys whistle sometimes while the girls sang. If not used too often this will stimulate the whole school.

Lesson Quiz

A teacher found it difficult to interest her class of boys. She divided it into two companies, with the brightest two boys as captains. She had Company A quiz Company B, and B quiz A, one Sunday of each month, and at the end of the month gave the standing of each company.

Screens as Walls

The problem of separate classrooms may be met by using screens four feet high and as long as need be, covered with a durable fabric.

Getting Books for Mission Study

If you want a mission-study library let each member of the class buy one book in the course, with the privilege of keeping it afterward.

"On Time" Tags

A novel scheme for promoting prompt attendance at a Sunday-school is to print tags, bearing on one side the words, "On Time Tag," and on the reverse, numbers consecutively from 1 to 100. The first pupil present gets No. 1, the second, No. 2, and so on until the school opens, when no more tags are given out. It soon becomes evident who are late, but it is much more tactful to present "On Time" tags than tags which say "I am late."

Flowers for Early Arrivals

In a class whose membership has grown from twelve to sixty-eight the teacher encourages early coming by giving a carnation to the first twelve arrivals.

Good Class Motto

A boys' class organized as the "True Blues," with their motto "On the square."

Birthday Pennies

To help the finances of the Sunday-school it would be a good thing if each older pupil would follow the example of the little ones and bring birthday pennies. It would make a noticeable difference in a year.

Floral Days

Have special floral days, letting the children bring all they can of that flower for decoration. Try a sweet pea Sunday, a daisy Sunday, a rose Sunday.

Sunday-school Board Supper

A successful method to get the members of a Sunday-school board out to the monthly meeting was solved by having a twenty-five-cent supper to which the teachers could come direct from business; the business meeting followed the supper, which was arranged by the women teachers divided into committees. The usual formality of these meetings was thus prevented.

Advertising a Sunday-school

To advertise a Sunday-school in a small village hang a framed picture illustrating the next Sunday's International Lesson in some public place where the people of the town congregate, and then change the picture each week, keeping abreast of the lessons.

Another device which has been used to keep up the attendance among small children is the following: Three circles were drawn, one inside of the other, on a piece of gray cardboard about seven inches square. The largest was called the "Attendance Circle," the next, the "Golden-text Circle," and the smallest, the "Penny Circle." A sufficient number of diameters to mark off the Sundays in each quarter were drawn through these circles. Each section was dated, and if the child was present a gilt star was placed in the "Attendance Circle"; if he knew the text, a heart was affixed in the next space under the same date; and if he brought a penny, a star was added in the inner circle. If the child was present every Sunday, knew the text, and brought a penny, all the spaces were filled and a heart was placed where the diameters crossed. After making two perforations in the card and attaching a blue ribbon hanger, it was given to the child to keep.

Individual Drinking Cups

In these days of increasing care in sanitation and wholesome living, may not any method employed about the church premises for the prevention of disease contagion rightfully be termed "church work"? Surely the Great Physician would have the ills of mankind prevented as well as cured. The modern Sunday-school is nothing if not progressive, and one of our largest Sunday-school supply houses has started the movement toward individual drinking cups for the small children. The common drinking cup is being abolished in our public schools, why not in our Sunday-schools? The only fault with the two-inch-high paper cups which this Board has had made to introduce in its own denominational schools is that they are so cunning they may tempt the little ones to quench their thirst more often than is really necessary.

Reaching a Scattered Class

Here is a way in which a duplicating machine in the pastor's study could be utilized.

The Home Department of the Sunday-school has been used widely throughout country districts as a means of holding in Bible classes those who could not attend the meetings at the church, and a Massachusetts minister sends out to the members a weekly letter.

He supplies each member with the lesson-book, and, in addition, writes a letter about the lesson, taking up such points as he would if he were teaching the class orally. He sends one to each person enrolled either by mail or by messenger, and by this method keeps in personal touch with every member. This letter gives him an opportunity of saying many things in the way of instruction and advice which he could not say to the pupils in any other way. During the last year he has had a class of thirty-five, with the membership located in several different towns and connected with two distinct churches. All who have taken the course have been enthusiastic, and many have told him how they have looked forward each week for the coming of the letter.

Getting Teachers Out to Board Meeting

"It has been my experience," writes a minister's wife, "both in city and country churches that there are ten people who will go ahead and carry out a plan where there is one with the originality and ingenuity to suggest the plan, and often the minister's wife has to be this one. There is no one who needs more grace and wisdom and tact than a minister's wife. Good judgment will keep her inconspicuous, and many times the fact that the bright idea originated in her mind will never be known.

"Recently I attended our Sunday-school teachers' meeting. Not nearly all of the teachers were there, and the superintendent, faithful and good, but not so resourceful as he might be, was discouraged. After the meeting I arranged with him for a convenient date, and by another week all of the teachers were invited socially to the parsonage for a certain evening. They all came.

New Form for an Old Game

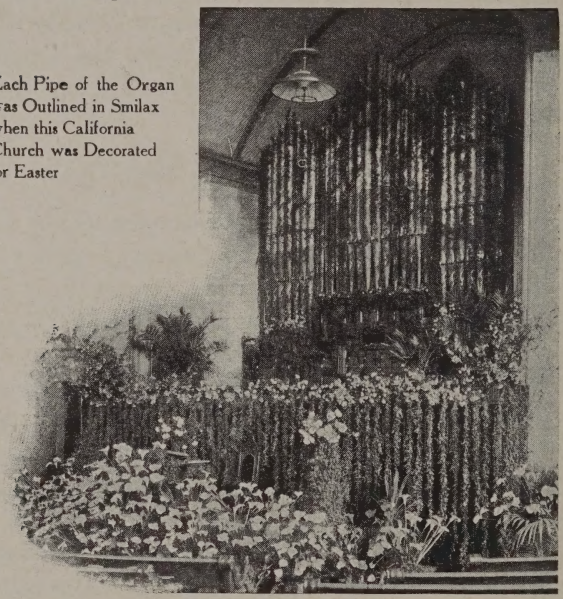
"For the first entertainment, after all the guests had arrived, I made a new application of an old game, and pinned on each person's back a slip of paper indicating some part of the Sunday-school or something pertaining to the Sunday-school. Each one was to guess what he represented by the remarks that were made to him. Of course there were each of the departments, from the Cradle Roll to the Home Department, and the Seniors. There was the 'Hour of Beginning' and the 'Hour of Closing,' which occasioned some very pointed remarks. The one who wore the latter was told he made dinner late every Sunday. The one who wore 'Order in the Sunday-school' was told he was a disgrace to the church. Other remarks on other subjects were not all so severe; every one said pretty things to the Primary Department and the Cradle Roll.

I found no difficulty at all in naming all of the fifty people who attended. The following were a few of the subjects used: the Sunday-school Orchestra, Rally Day, the Christmas Entertainment, the Sunday-school Picnic, Missions in the Sunday-school, the Children in Our Parish Who Go Nowhere to Sunday-school, the Singing in Our School, the Young Men's Class, and the Lesson Quarterly."

An Easter-time Song Cycle

FROM material that lies close by the hand of every Sunday-school worker a service of song may be prepared that will picture with tenderness and reverence the events of Holy Week. A service of this kind would be very effective for the observance of Easter Day by those schools which have no especial services preceding Easter, and one advantage is that it may be planned within a week's time, without rehearsals. The following outline and arrangement are given as an example of the selections that might be made from the various denominational hymnals. The presiding officer should be one who could give with feeling the few words of connection needed in some instances between the hymns to make the story complete—verses of Scripture, a few well-chosen words, or a personal application of the

truth to be presented in song. The singing of the hymns may be varied with solos, quartettes, chorus, or congregational singing. In some instances it may be effective to have only one stanza sung.



Each Pipe of the Organ was Outlined in Smilax when this California Church was Decorated for Easter

The triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem may be pictured by the singing of "The Palms."

"O'er all the way, green palms and blossoms gay,
Are strewn this day in festal preparation."

The Last Supper may be recalled in Reginald Heber's Eucharistic hymn:

> "Bread of the world in mercy broken,
> Wine of the soul in mercy shed."

Gethsemane's agony is witnessed again in

> "'Tis midnight; and on Olive's brow
> . . . The suffering Saviour prays alone."

The trial of Jesus and the question of personal responsibility is presented in the hymn, "What Will You Do with Jesus?"

> "Jesus is standing in Pilate's hall,
> Friendless, forsaken, betrayed by all."

The walk to Calvary is brought to mind in

> "Must Jesus bear the cross alone,
> And all the world go free?"

Reverently we look upon three pictures portraying in song.

The Crucifixion:

> "O sacred Head, now wounded
> With grief and shame weighed down."

The Witnesses:

> "Near the cross was Mary weeping,
> . . . Gazing on her dying Son."

The Death:

"'Tis finished!" so the Saviour cried,
The battle fought, the victory won."

The purpose of His suffering appeals to us as we sing:

"On the cross of Calvary
Jesus died for you and me."

What it should mean to us is made plain in the hymn beginning

"When I survey the wondrous cross
. . . My richest gain I count but loss."

The victory of the resurrection and the joyfulness of the day are sung in the two hymns:

"Low in the grave He lay, Jesus, my Saviour!
Waiting the coming day, Jesus, my Lord!"

* * * * * * *

"Up from the grave He arose,
With a mighty triumph o'er His foes!"

"The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad.
The passover of gladness; the passover of God!"

The ascension of Christ and His right to reign we acclaim in

"Rise, glorious Conqueror, rise
Into Thy native skies."

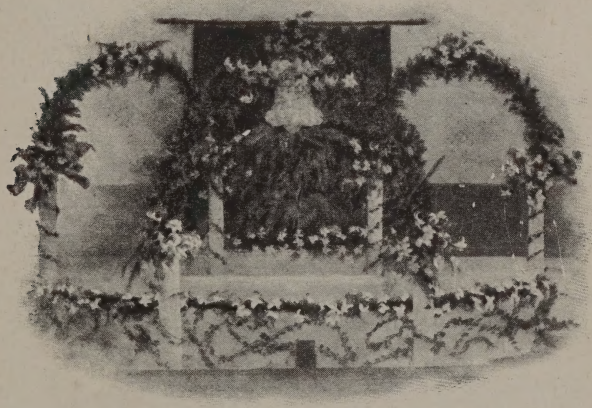
The glory of His conquest is seen in

> "The Head that once was crowned with thorns
> Is crowned with glory now."

At the end the bliss that shall be the future state of the blessed finds expression in the "Glory Song":

> "When by His grace I shall look on His face,
> That will be glory, be glory for me!"

This musical service may be made both pretty and solemnly impressive by giving a little thought



to the presentation of each hymn. It would be very pretty to have a company of young girls in

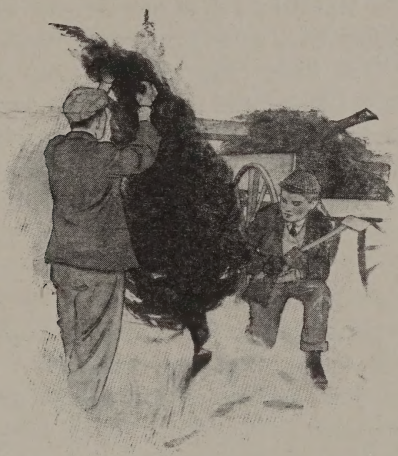
white gowns enter the chancel as they lead in the opening song waving palm branches and scattering blossoms. Lights might be slowly lowered until almost darkness prevails during the most solemn parts, having them gradually turned on until they reach their full brightness again during the singing of the joyous songs.

The missionary element may be introduced by the singing of a suitable hymn and the making of an offering before the singing of the "Glory Song," if that should be the custom of the school at Easter-time.

CHAPTER XXII

WHAT SOME SUNDAY-SCHOOLS HAVE DONE AT CHRISTMAS-TIME

CAN you imagine anything more truly Christmas in spirit than for a pastor and his wife to act as host and hostess to all the "away-from-homers" in their congregation who otherwise



would eat their Christmas dinners in a boarding-house or alone in a restaurant? One church

solved the problem of the stranger and the lonely one in its congregation by arranging for a dinner at a moderate price for all people away from home. Such a dinner can be arranged at a hotel or café or, if the church facilities permit, may be held in the church rooms; and many of the lonely ones would ask no greater pleasure than to be permitted to help to get the dinner ready, set the tables, and "dish up." The young folks will be in good company, and bright speeches and music and games will help to make hearts happy that otherwise would be sad.

This idea came to me from two sources—from Illinois and from Texas—so more than one worker has had the thought in mind.

Keep the Church Open During Christmas Week

"During the week of Christmas, when our young people were so apt to find the wrong kind of amusement," writes a worker who sees opportunities, "and when strangers, unable to get home for the holidays, were so lonely in a strange community and were more than likely to seek companionship in surroundings that were not of the best, we decided to open our church parlors and have a week's reception for all the church members, their friends, all the young people, and any stranger who cared to come; and there were many, many such. The minister and the Home

Mission Society took charge. Committees were appointed—different ones for each evening.

Make the Rooms Attractive

"A little classroom was decorated prettily and arranged for the 'refreshment-room.' These refreshments varied. One evening they consisted of salad and wafers, served with hot coffee or chocolate; another, frozen custard served with delicious cake. We hung portieres between this room and the main reception-room, then draped them back. Into this main room, which was large, we brought rugs, cushions, couches, a piano —in short, anything decorative—from many homes, and made it into an attractively furnished reception room. Some were in the 'receiving line,' and others introduced the strangers and made everybody welcome and at home. Each evening we arranged music and readings from friends and members gifted in those lines. In the next room we had a 'cozy corner' decorated with a background of green leaves and vines. A young girl in white stood here and served fruit lemonade. It was a success in every way. Young people who thought the church would not or could not do anything in a social way were very much pleased and charmed and we gained new members. We charged no admission fee. The large membership shared expenses."

Christmas Greetings to the Sick

On the bouquets that go out to the sick from the Young People's Societies the Sunday before Christmas do not forget to put a Christmas card or the cards ordinarily used may be given a Christmas touch by sticking on one of the little decorative Christmas seals and writing a Christmas message.

Novel Way to Receive the Offering

Most Sunday-schools ask that an offering be made at their Christmas entertainment, and a novel way of collecting it is to give tiny socks to the children beforehand in which they may bring their pennies; the little socks are then dropped into a huge one suspended from an embroidery hoop, to which has been attached a long handle for convenience in collecting.

Nice Way to Present Money

Some one told me of a novel way in which a congregation presented its pastor with a sum of money last Christmas. It purchased a postcard

album, but instead of postcards crisp one-dollar notes were inserted throughout its pages.

Conducting the Christmas Entertainment for Pay

A superintendent asked the young ladies of one of his Bible-classes to take charge of the Christmas entertainment, offering to pay them ten dollars for their services. A large chorus choir formed from the church choir and the members of the class furnished the music, consisting of two Christmas anthems. The rest of the program was given by children who had been drilled by the members of the class. The work, shared by all, was a pleasure, and the ten dollars helped the finances of the class.

A Surprise by Each Class

An Ohio Sunday-school carried out an original idea. They held a Christmas social in the Sunday-school rooms. Each class was a committee and was responsible for a part of the entertainment, but what that part was no one knew but themselves and the general committee. The air was full of mystery and all the scholars were happy over their secrets. One class was the reception committee in gay costume and greeted everybody. Another class had decorated the rooms in festive manner. Another class presided over a postoffice where all the others called for their mail and found boxes of candy addressed to

them. Another class furnished refreshments with the aid of the ladies of the church. Then there was the program committee with some novel features, and so on; all through the evening surprises were being sprung upon every one. Each class had something to do, and did it well. All were happy because they were a part of the celebration and they declared it the best they ever had attended.

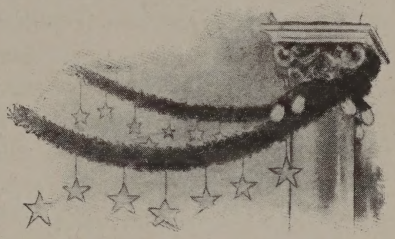
"Whitewash" as a Decoration

A Sunday-school in Maine wanted to get the wintry woods effect in their decorations, and in addition to using tufts and balls and moss-like fragments of cotton batting on the twigs and branches, with here and there a gay poinsettia bloom to warm the scene, they dipped branches of beech and oak, to which the leaves had tenaciously clung, into whitewash. These pure white branches were very striking in appearance. The whitewash gives a very pretty effect also when used on tips of evergreen branches.

Suspending Stars from Garlands

Garlands of evergreens always make pretty decorations, but a novel effect may be added by suspending from the festoons, at distances of say three feet, stars cut from cardboard and covered with silver and gold paper. For a large church the stars should measure about five or

six inches across. Hang them by invisible wires to the garlands, allowing them to hang at different lengths —from six to eighteen inches. They will then hang free of the green and turn as the air currents strike them. If more stars are desired they may be hung on light cord of the same color as the walls. The stars should have the appearance of hanging in space.



Poppies to Brighten Christmas Greens

A reader in Nebraska tells me that the problem of Christmas decoration is a serious one with them because of the scarcity of greenery and red berries. Last year they made scarlet poppies to decorate their tree. These were easily fashioned and the result was charming. The tree was decorated with these poppies, and the church was festooned with ropes of cedar interspersed with bunches of the red flowers.

Helping the Needy of the Neighborhood

The Christmas season affords an ideal time for the wise superintendent and teacher to cultivate the spirit of giving in the hearts of the scholars.

For more than twenty-five years a prominent Sunday-school in Philadelphia has made the day one of substantial helpfulness to the needy of its neighborhood, and it would not willingly discontinue this blessed service. Classes select the special objects of their benefactions, and for weeks preparations are made for appropriate gifts.

Thirty Christmas Dinners from One Class

The donations of one year are representative of what this school does. One class sent out not less than thirty baskets of provisions to as many families, and almost every other class sent out at least one basket. A list of the contents of one of these baskets will show the substantial character of the gift: chicken, picnic ham, potatoes, cereal, several pounds of sugar, one pound of coffee, half a pound of tea, two pounds of butter, three cans of tomatoes, three cans of corn, one dozen eggs, one large cake, turnips, peas, beans, salt and a bag of flour. Other gifts consisted of a scholarship for a poor girl, and subscriptions to several magazines to be sent to charitable institutions. The classes are urged to deliver their gifts through representatives of the class when it is possible to do so, and this is always the best way, as it brings those who give and those who receive into direct personal contact. Not less than two hundred families were helped by this school.

Gifts from the Country for City Distribution

When a school finds no destitution in its immediate community, as may be the case in well-to-do suburban towns, it is a good plan to collect clothing, provisions, etc., through the scholars, and send them to some energetic city school, asking that the gifts be distributed.

"In Prison, and Ye Came Unto Me"

Included in the Christmas work of a live Kentucky school was the writing of over two hundred letters and the sending of copies of the New Testament to the inmates of the penitentiaries. These were sent through the prison committee of the State Christian Endeavor Society. This committee provides a Christmas entertainment at each of the penitentiaries.

A "Pillow Club" is a Good Idea

A Sunday-school teacher held a large class of girls together for the fall months as a "Pillow Club." When Christmas came an Old Ladies' Home was supplied with square foot-pillows made of cretonne and filled with the bits of cork in which California grapes are packed, and a hospital was equipped with tiny pillows of odd shapes and sizes for the comfort of surgical cases and for the use of sick babies and children for whom ordinary pillows are unsuitable. Invalids, too, would appreciate the comfort of new pillows.

Christmas Trees for the City Poor

A class of boys in Indiana gathered small evergreen trees and shipped them to the Associated Charities of their nearest city. The poor homes to which they were sent welcomed the trees so joyfully that this may become an annual Christmas occupation in the school.

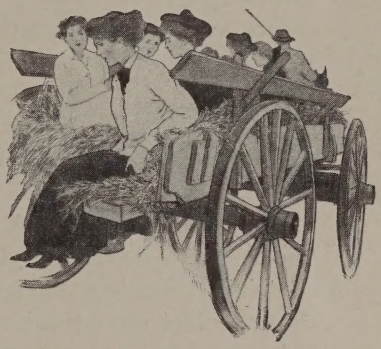
When Remembering the Sick, Don't Forget the Nurses

Another group of Christmas cheergivers, having previously arranged it with the matron of the hospital who agreed to keep the secret, were admitted to the reception room of the hospital about nine o'clock Christmas Eve, carrying a dainty tree and numerous packages. The tree was securely fastened on the table and prettily although hurriedly trimmed. At the base was a pound box of homemade candies and a small gift for each of the nurses. The matron said: "It drove away a blue Christmas, for many people remember the sick in the hospital, but few think of the nurses."

They provided, also, a tray bouquet to lie flat, for each patient's Christmas dinner. They followed up their early-morning cheer by singing Christmas carols on the stairs in the afternoon as there were no very serious cases in the hospital at the time. And what brings the Christmas thrill like the hearing of the Christmas hymns!

On a Hay Ride to Sing Carols

A Sunday-school in California held its Christmas entertainment the night before Christmas Eve. Then on Christmas Eve a class of girls started out on a hay ride—we can't all have snowy Christmases—about 6.30 and sang the Christmas carols before the homes of about twenty sick and "shut-ins." The girls had learned the carols for the entertainment, so it was no extra work. The list of places to be visited was provided by the pastor.



The "Giving" Entertainment

MANY Sunday-schools having adopted the custom of having their classes contribute useful articles to the particular home, orphanage, or hospital in which each is interested, or for the comfort and happiness of the poor near their doors, rather than receive gifts from the school each year, requests have come to me for novel

ways of presenting these articles. The best plan is for each class to keep its donation a secret, except from the superintendent of the school in order to avoid duplication. Five minutes is sufficient time to allow for each class to make an entertaining presentation. It is a good plan to keep an empty barrel at the door and announce that a potato, apple, or some other vegetable or fruit will be required from each person as an admittance fee.

A New Way to Give Mittens

A class of six girls took seats on the platform: one dressed as a society girl, one as a Quakeress, one as a college girl, one as a housewife with sleeves rolled up, mixing a cake in a large yellow bowl, one as a widow, and the sixth as a typical spinster. A young man addressed the audience, saying he had come to the conclusion that he should seek a wife and would proceed to the task. In quite a conventional way, but with apropos side remarks, he proposed to each girl and received from each a black mitten. Then all came forward with additional mittens, the gift of the class.

Many Comforts for Those in Need

Another class of young ladies, in old-style gowns, brought comforts and sang "Aunt Dinah's Quilting Party." Several girls in Chinese costume sang a Chinese song and brought tea.

A class of adults gave potatoes, and were represented by one of their number, as a cook, carrying a basket of potatoes, in praise of which he said:

"Fry me, bake me, stew me, boil me;
'Tis 'most impossible to spoil me.
Bells are pealed on Christmas gay,
But we are peeled three times a day.
We'd open our eyes in great surprise
To find a man who'd us despise,
Boil me, stew me, bake me, fry me;
If you don't believe I'm good
Just try me."

A young men's class represented millers and left sacks of flour piled on the platform. A class of girls gave sheets and pillow-cases. Draped in the sheets, and wearing the pillow-cases for bonnets, they marched in and recited, "An' the Gobbleuns 'll git you ef you don't watch out!"

Things are Not Always What they Seem

A pie was sent by one class, which, on being opened, was found to contain one-dollar bills instead of the "four-and-twenty blackbirds."

Girls dressed as nurses carried hospital supplies. Others in milkmaid costumes and sunbonnets carried milking-stools and two large milk-cans filled with cans of condensed milk. A class of boys dressed as farmers, and each one carried a live chicken, which he endeavored to place in a

coop on the platform. As not all of the feathered tribe were willing to enter, this was an amusing feature.

A primary class brought children's stockings, with the mate of each stocking tucked away in the toe of its fellow. A Home Department sent a contribution of a towel apiece—sixty towels. And what a snowy pile it was!

Probably the kindest way to present individually the articles collected, and not wound a sensitive spirit, is to send them out on Christmas morning with a bunch of holly and a hearty Christmas greeting from the Sunday-school.

In the Way of Trees and Decorations

LAST Christmas a church in Minnesota was decorated so beautifully for its Christmas entertainment that the story of how it was effected may suggest to others a similarly helpful arrangement.

"A church in Georgia struggling for a new building offered to send a box of Christmas greens provided our church would reciprocate by contributing to its building fund. The greens came and were beautiful ones: bunches of glossy magnolia leaves, long trailing vines of Southern smilax, tangled masses of the ashen-gray Spanish moss, and stately Spanish needle pines; all so

unlike our usual Christmas greens—lovely though they are—and so easy to work with, not needing to be made into ropes or wreaths. While the decorations were being admired the audience was told how we obtained them, and made an offering in response to the appeal for the Southern church."

A "Star" Exercise and Decoration

For a school where material for Christmas decorations and programs is hard to get or cannot be afforded, a "Star" exercise like that given in a Kentucky church might be arranged.

The main feature of the decorations was a large four-foot star made of light framework and covered with silver tinsel, or silver paper might be used instead. This was suspended by invisible wires from the ceiling of the high-arched alcove back of the pulpit. Garlands of green were draped high in the alcove back of the large star, being caught up in the middle and at the ends by smaller silver stars. Bunches of holly were arranged back of the lights on the side walls, and rows of small four-inch stars were strung on fine thread and hung from one light to another. The central chandelier was massed with holly, and many stars, large and small, silver and gold, were suspended by fine threads of various lengths from it, forming a pretty

constellation. Everywhere possible were hung small stars, which swayed and glittered in the light.

A chorus of young girls in white dresses was arranged on rows of raised seats in the alcove. All the songs and recitations were selected with the star idea in mind.

Individual Trees

Where it is impossible or inadvisable to have evergreen trees at Christmas entertainments it is possible to provide some pleasing substitutes for them.

The individual tree method is a new and novel way to present Christmas gifts. A flight of steps must first be built. In these steps bore holes until there are as many holes as there are members of the primary department. Into each hole is fitted a small Christmas tree about two or three feet high. On each tree (which is really only a branch of a large tree) tie a child's box of candy, an orange and whatever other gift is to be presented. The steps containing the trees may be placed in the centre of the platform and thus form part of the decoration for the evening. Each child will be delighted to have a "whole tree" to carry home with the gifts fastened to it, and the pleasure will last as long as the branch does.

Making a Whole Tree from Individual Trees

The individual tree may also be carried out in another way by having each scholar contribute to the whole. Build a very firm framework similar to half of a circular flower-stand, but on a larger scale. Strip a tall Christmas tree of its branches to within eight feet of the top; fasten this part of the tree securely to the top of the semicircular frame, and use the cut-off branches of the tree to cover the front of the framework. Decorate the tree in the usual manner.

The school enters singing a Processional, each member bearing a tiny tree, covered with a web of tinsel. As the scholars pass to the front, after marching through the church, the trees are taken from them and placed in holes which have been bored in the framework. Tiny electric lights with colored bulbs appear in the branches of the large tree at the top.

Let the Children Form a "Live" Tree

A pretty tableau may be presented by letting the children form a tree. This plan, too, requires a semicircular platform, well braced, with similar, smaller platforms arranged one above the other, so that when the structure is complete it will be about six or seven feet high. The framework should be covered with a green fabric and a curtain placed in front of it.

Near the close of the program let the children march back of the curtain and take their places on the elevated platforms, having one child stand higher than the rest in the centre of the topmost one. Each child should carry a large bunch of holly, and when the curtain is drawn the whole arrangement will be seen to have the shape and appearance of a Christmas tree. The children may then sing a song of joy—one where they clap their hands will be prettiest. Tableau lights will make the scene a brilliant one.

A Wizard Tree

The object in having a tree of this kind is to surprise the children present at the annual Sunday-school entertainment by its appearance after the preliminary program is finished. It is a collapsible tree raised to its full height by a rope through a pulley in the ceiling.

Take a heavy wire and make from four to six hoops, according to the size of tree desired, the lowest one smaller in diameter than the next above, but all the rest tapering to a very small one at the top, in order to outline the form of an evergreen tree. In place of the trunk of the tree use a one-inch rope. Fasten the wire hoops together by strong twine, the distance between the hoops being gauged by the proposed height of the tree. Make a wire network from the rim of each hoop,

passing the wires through the rope in the center at a level a little below the rim of that particular hoop. Put evergreen or other branches on this wire network, letting them rest on the rim, those on the outer edge slanting slightly upward as in a real evergreen tree. Decorate as you choose. The tree should rest in its collapsed form, about three feet high, and be hidden by a curtain, until at a given signal and with musical accompaniment it is raised to its full height and beauty. This has been tried and greatly surprises and delights the children. Colored lights thrown on the tree as it rises will add to the charm.

A Flower-laden Tree

A young woman who is much interested in Sunday-school work adopted this pretty idea when she found herself in charge of the Christmas tree. She had a small tree in readiness with nothing on it save a dainty festooning of silver tinsel. The teachers of the school were each asked to bring one or two fragrant flowers—a rose, perhaps, or a few carnations, or a wee bunch of violets—and these blossoms were tied to the little tree with knots of baby ribbon. An express wagon was waiting, and when the tree was trimmed and carefully covered with burlap, off it went to an Old Ladies' Home in the city to give each old lady there the joy of a posy at Christmas.

Filling a Christmas Cradle

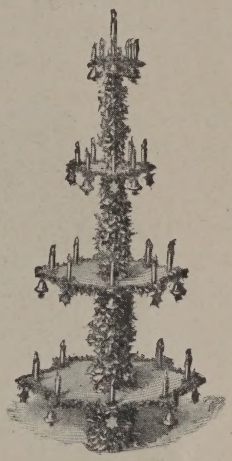
That was the teachers' part of the plan; but the children had theirs, too! A cradle was waiting to receive the gifts the children had been asked to bring. Each child brought one gift, if possible. Some brought dolls, some games or toys, and some only a little candy or an orange—just as they could. So the Christmas cradle was almost filled and went on the express wagon also, to an Orphan Home a few blocks away, with childish, cheery wishes, before ever these Sunday-school children had had a glimpse of their own beautiful tree.

The young woman who thought of this plan that gave pleasure to so many, yet cost but little on the part of each giver, said that she felt sure the children enjoyed their gifts more because they had given to children poorer than themselves. "Children love to give if some one tells them how to do it," she said.

A Bethlehem Christmas Tree

What we might call a "Bethlehem Christmas Tree," because it is formed of star-shaped sections, can be made by following these directions: Secure a pine post, six feet in length, six inches square at the base, and gradually tapering to an inch and a half at the top. From a pine board half an inch in thickness saw an eight-pointed star, thirty-

six inches across. Cut a square hole in the center, large enough to fit the post twelve inches from the bottom. Slip this in place and secure it with nails. Saw out another star, twenty-eight inches across, with a hole in the centre to fit the post twenty inches above the first star. Fit a third star sixteen inches across, twenty inches above the second star. On the top nail an eight-inch star. Around the edges of the stars tack a profusion of holly branches, taking care to preserve the outline of the stars. Cover the post with holly well supplied with berries. From all points of the stars suspend little bells, or little stars of green, red, or gold paper. Place red candles on all points, and on the topmost star place a candlestick containing a green candle. Cover the star sections with green paper, and on these sections gifts received for distribution to less favored children may be arranged, or the sections may be covered entirely with the holly, cedar, or other evergreens. This idea might be used in lieu of a real tree.



A Magic Tree

Owing to the number of pupils in the primary department of a New York Sunday-school it is divided into fifteen classes of six or eight children, with a teacher for each class, and a Magic Christmas Tree was a part of their Christmas entertainment last year.

The tree was trimmed with pink and white paper roses simply made. Over each of these roses was fastened a green paper, five inches by seven, the shade of the tree. Inside was placed a candy wrapped in paper. The outer edge of the paper was tied with a long green string and the other end pinched around the stem of the rose, so that it would hold on. Then the strings were brought to the floor where they were tied to green sticks.

Fifteen sticks represented the number of teachers, and each stick had as many strings tied to it as there were pupils in the class. The children formed a circle around the tree; the teacher gave them each a string, and at a given

signal they all pulled. The green bags came off and the tree was transformed into a beautiful bouquet of pink and white, while the children scrambled for the bonbons on the floor below. Using bright red roses would make the tree very attractive in the Christmas colors.

Almost Like a Real One

In some parts of our country it is impossible to get greens of any kind at Christmas time. As a substitute, if a small, old, bare tree can be secured, the branches may be wound with narrow strips of green crepe paper, fringed on one side. Scatter all over the branches "grass" or "snow," using either green or white tissue paper. Take a sheet and crease it in tiny folds very compactly, then snip off one-eighth-inch-wide pieces, which when slightly pulled out will give you a long, narrow, crinkled strip. Handfuls of these strips should be dropped upon the tree to hang like moss from the branches. When finished the tree will look almost like a real one, and on it may be hung the usual ornaments.

The Christmas Story in a Tree

A Christmas tree that tells a story will keep the attention of restless children, as well as interest those who carry out the idea. It is to tell the story of the life of Christ by articles, hung on the tree, that will recall scenes in His life—giving the best of texts for a Christmas address. A lighted candle will help to suggest the light that shone on the hills of Bethlehem; the figure of an angel will remind one of the announcement of Christ's birth; a shepherd's crook and little woolly sheep will bring to mind those to whom the announcement was made; a star, which way the shepherds were to go; a little manger, the place where they found Him; three sceptres, the three kings who came to see Jesus; and a dove, the descending Holy Spirit at the baptism. Objects indicative of His parables and works may also be selected: a bunch of grapes, a sheaf of wheat, a fish, and a loaf of bread. Figures of little children bring to remembrance their blessing, and the story of the tree closes with the symbol of the purpose of His coming—a cross, and the sign of His final triumph—a crown.

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